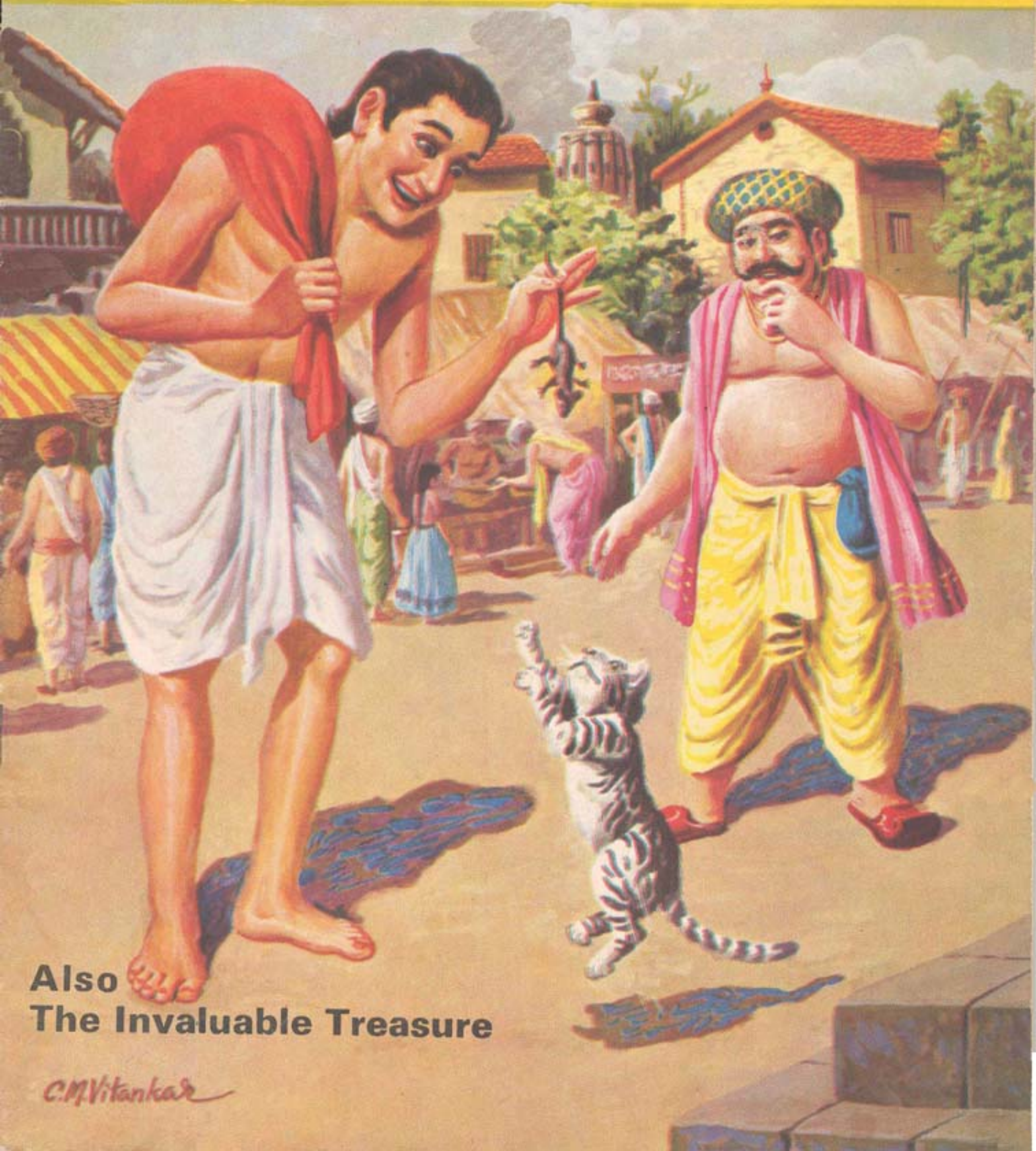




No. 269

JATAKA TALES

The Mouse Merchant



Also
The Invaluable Treasure

C.M. Vitankar

All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

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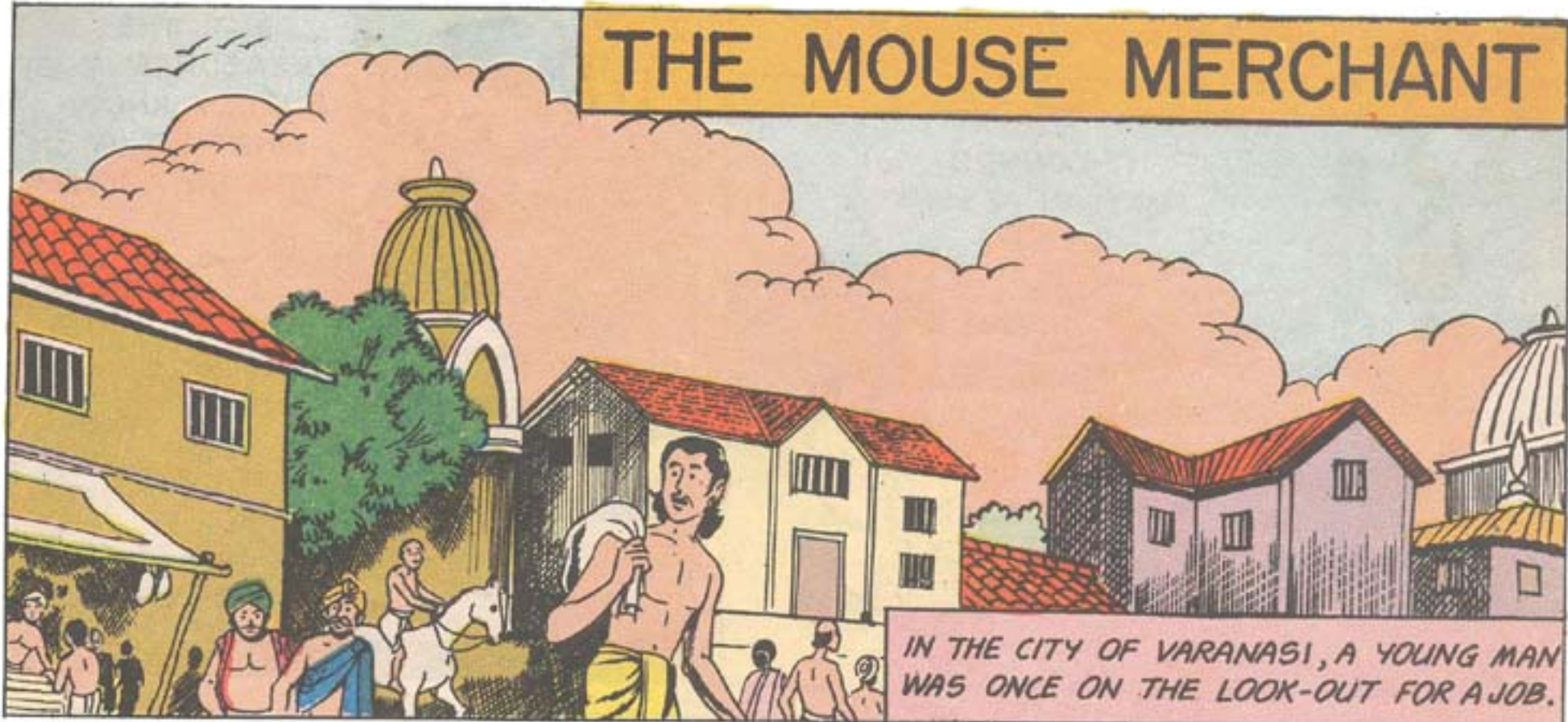
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Published by H.G. Mirchandani for India Book House Education Trust, Rusi Mansion, 29 Nathalal Parekh Marg, Bombay 400 039 and printed by him at IBH Printers, Marol Naka, Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay-400 059.

Editor : Anant Pai Script : Subba Rao

Artworks : Chandrakant D. Rane

THE MOUSE MERCHANT



IN THE CITY OF VARANASI, A YOUNG MAN WAS ONCE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR A JOB.

IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE ROYAL TREASURER, ACCOMPANIED BY A FRIEND, PASSED BY.

THE KING VALUES YOUR WORK. THE TREASURY IS OVERFLOWING WITH RICHES. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR SUCCESS?

INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE.

I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT I MEAN. DO YOU SEE THAT DEAD MOUSE?

YES... BUT....

EVEN IF HE HAS NO MONEY, A YOUNG MAN WITH INITIATIVE COULD JUST PICK UP THAT MOUSE AND START A BUSINESS.

A DEAD MOUSE AS CAPITAL? HA! HA! HA!

THE YOUNG MAN STOPPED AND GAZED AT THE DEAD MOUSE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE AN ABSURD IDEA...



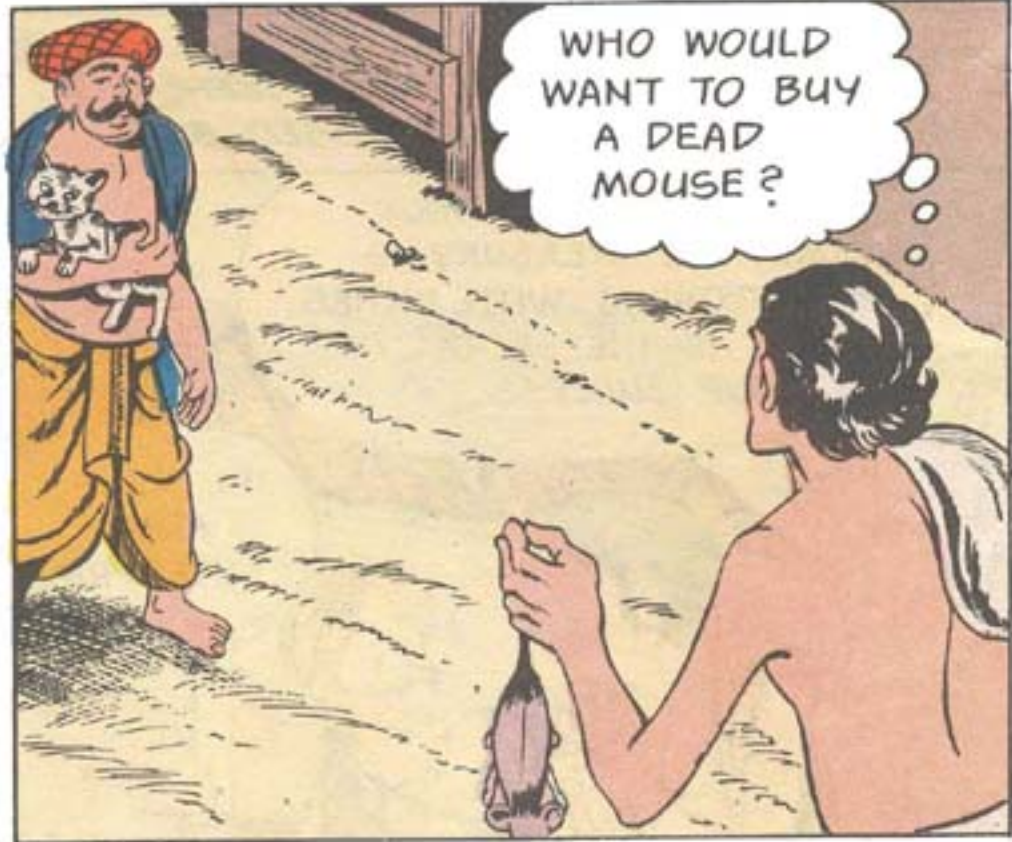
... BUT THE TREASURER MUST SURELY KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT!



BUT WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?



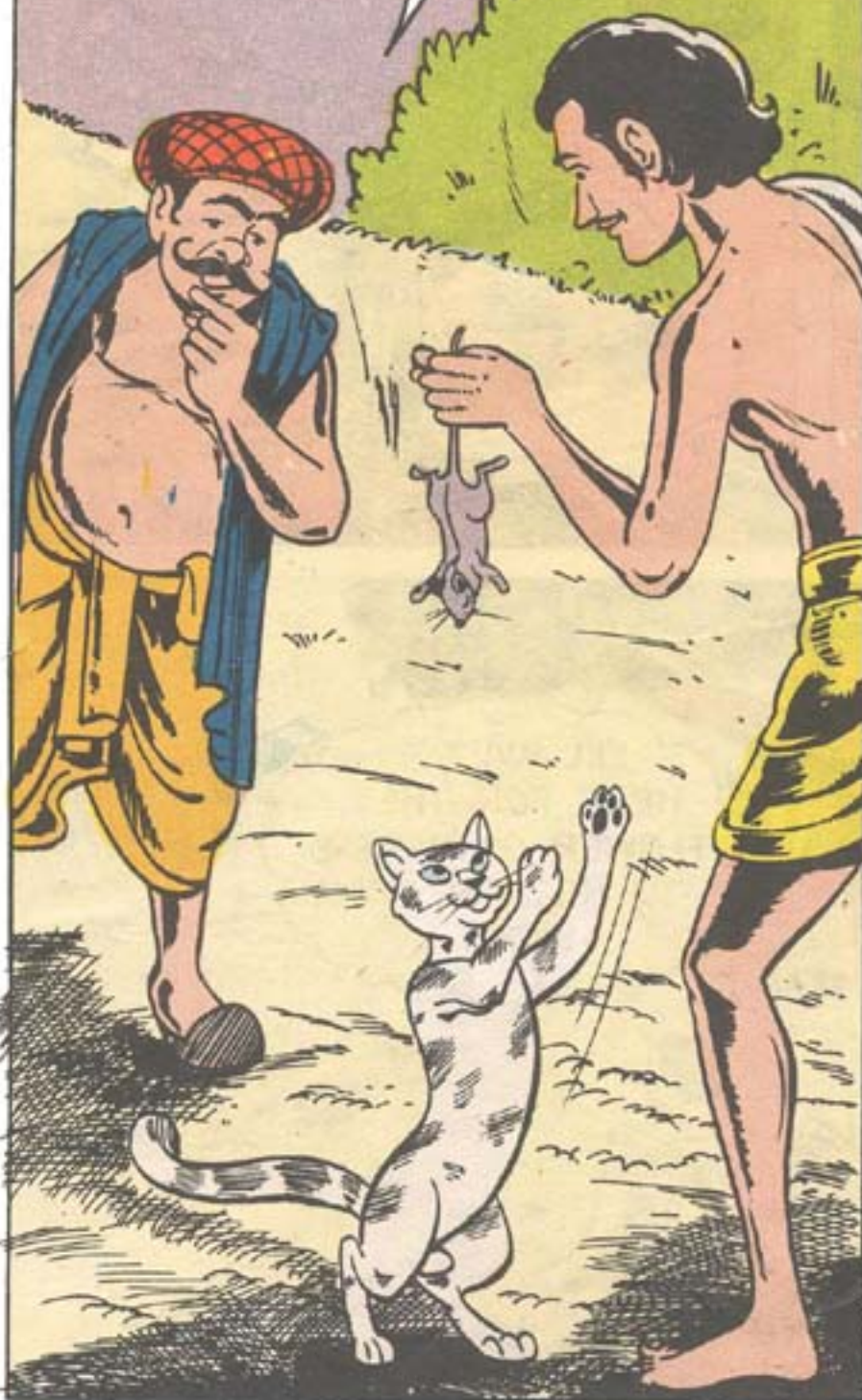
WHO WOULD WANT TO BUY A DEAD MOUSE?



HEY, PUSSY, COME BACK!



AH! NOW I KNOW
WHAT HAS ATTRACTED
HIM!



MY FRIEND, WILL
YOU SELL YOUR
MOUSE TO ME? I'LL
PAY ONE PAISA
FOR IT.



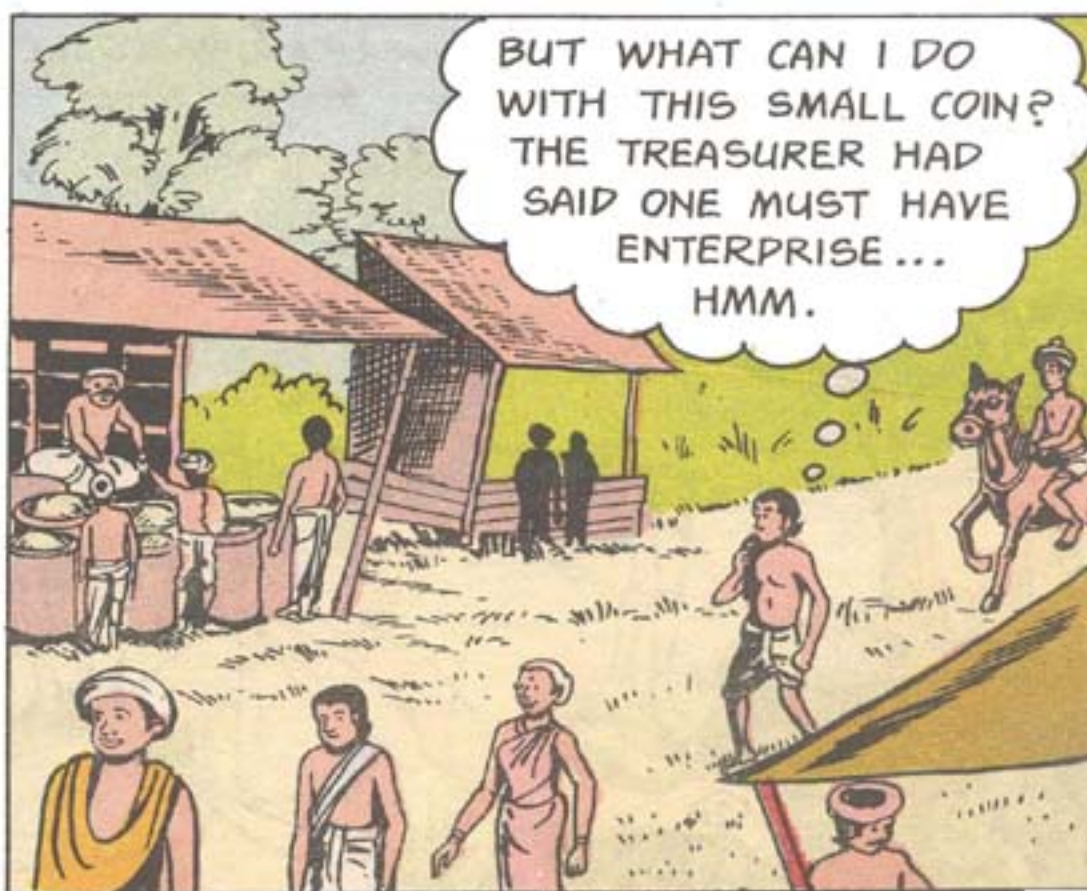
THE MOUSE
IS YOURS!



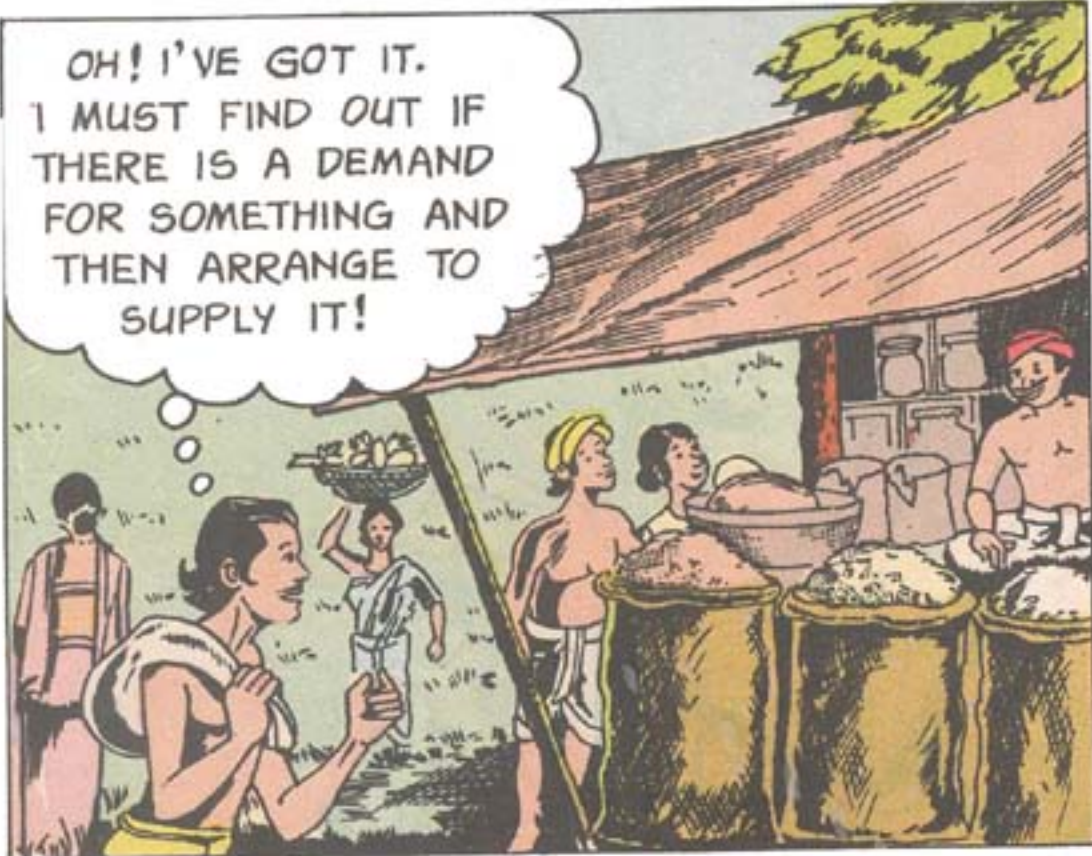
THE FIRST
COIN I'VE
EARNED!



BUT WHAT CAN I DO
WITH THIS SMALL COIN?
THE TREASURER HAD
SAID ONE MUST HAVE
ENTERPRISE...
HMM.



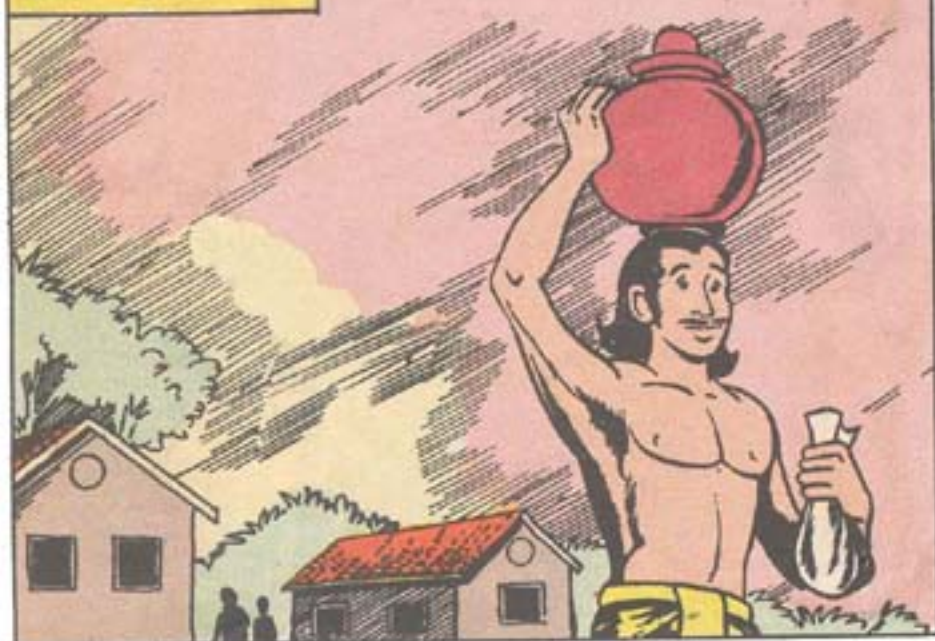
OH! I'VE GOT IT.
I MUST FIND OUT IF
THERE IS A DEMAND
FOR SOMETHING AND
THEN ARRANGE TO
SUPPLY IT!



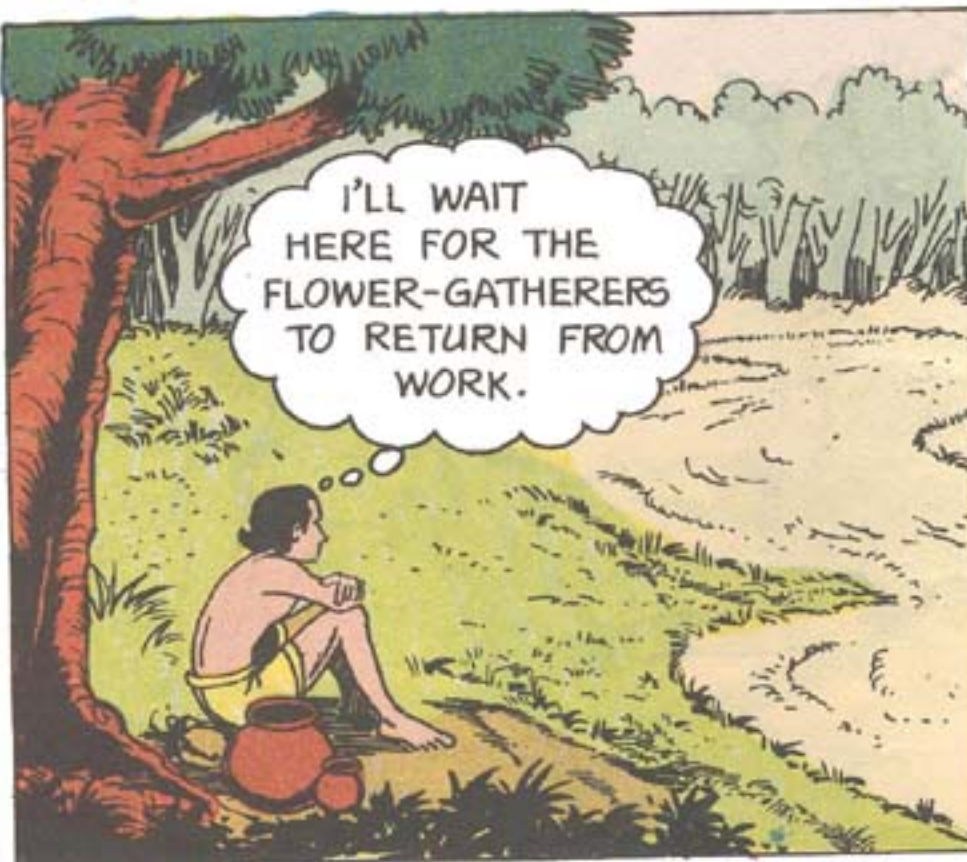
PLEASE GIVE ME
ONE PAISA'S
WORTH OF
GUR.



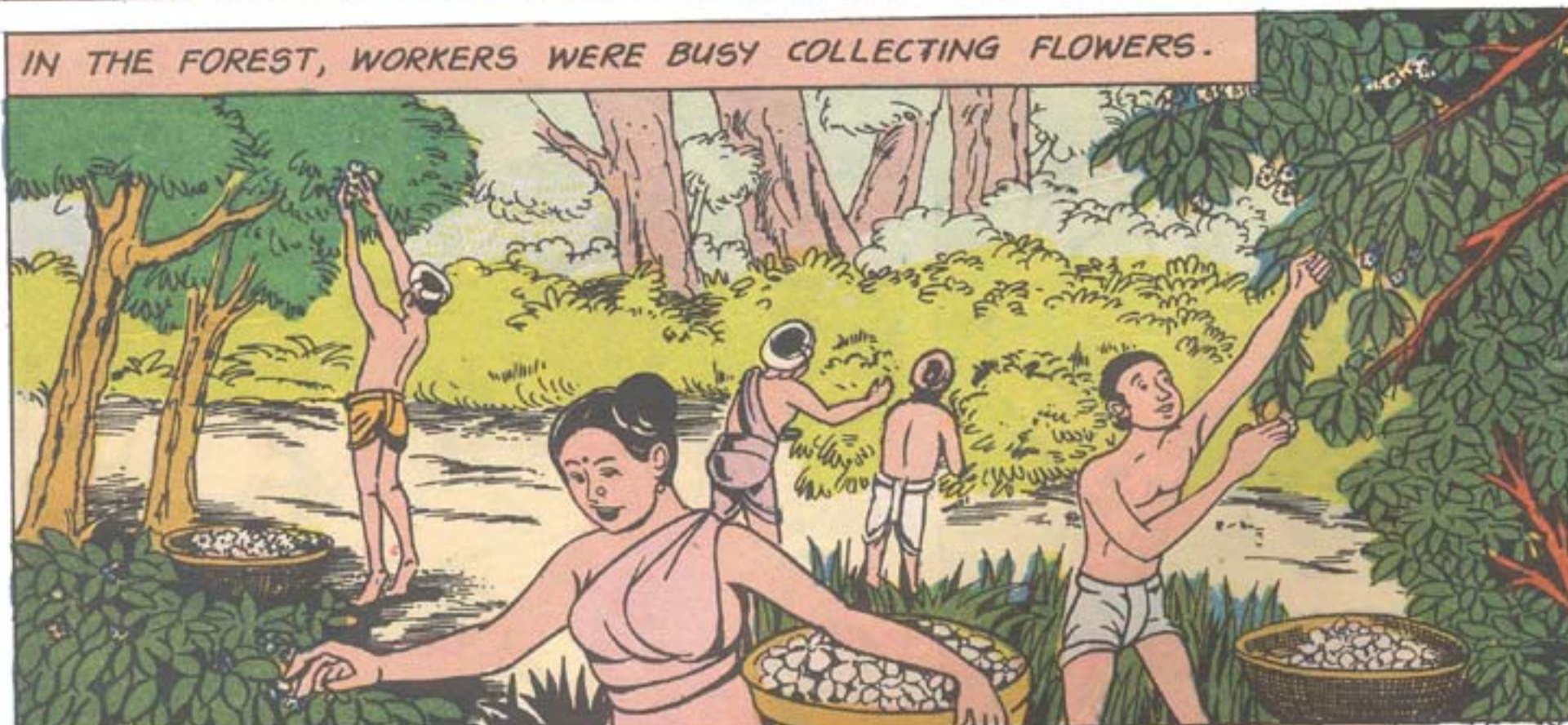
THE NEXT MORNING, THE YOUNG MAN
FILLED A POT WITH DRINKING WATER
AND WENT TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF
THE CITY.



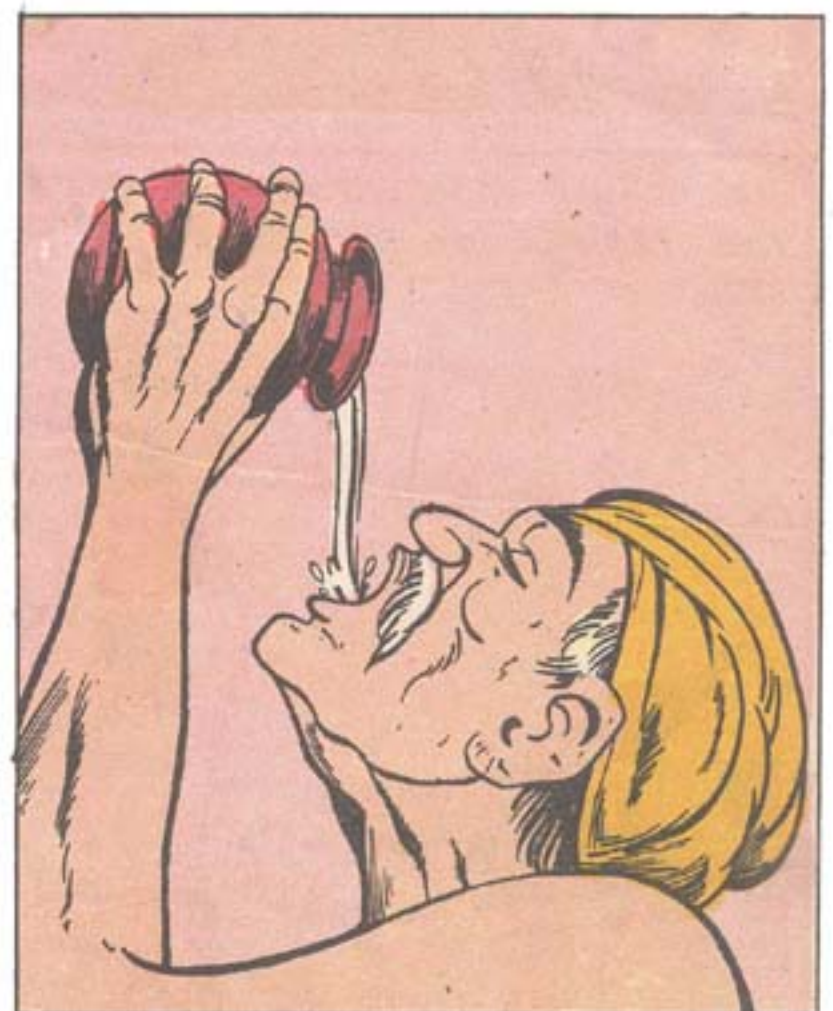
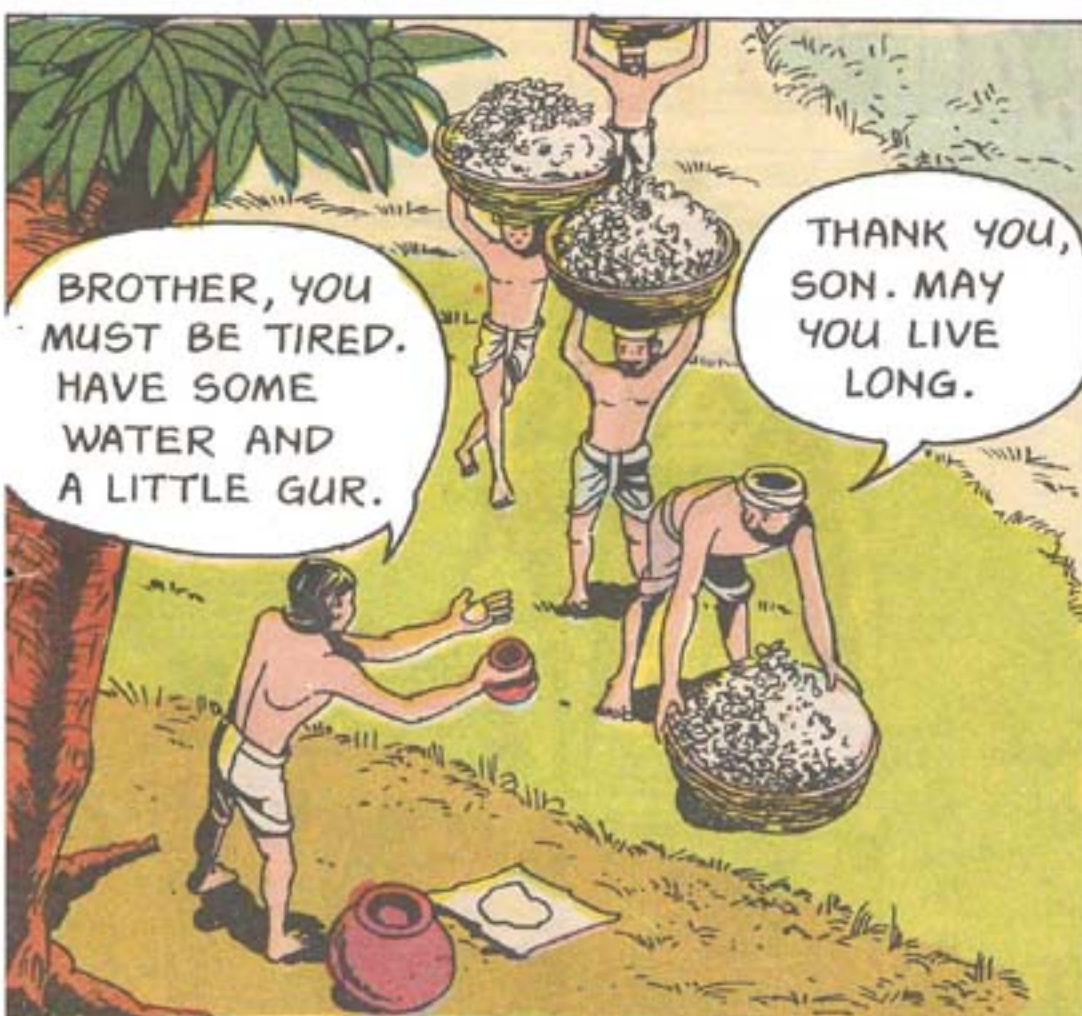
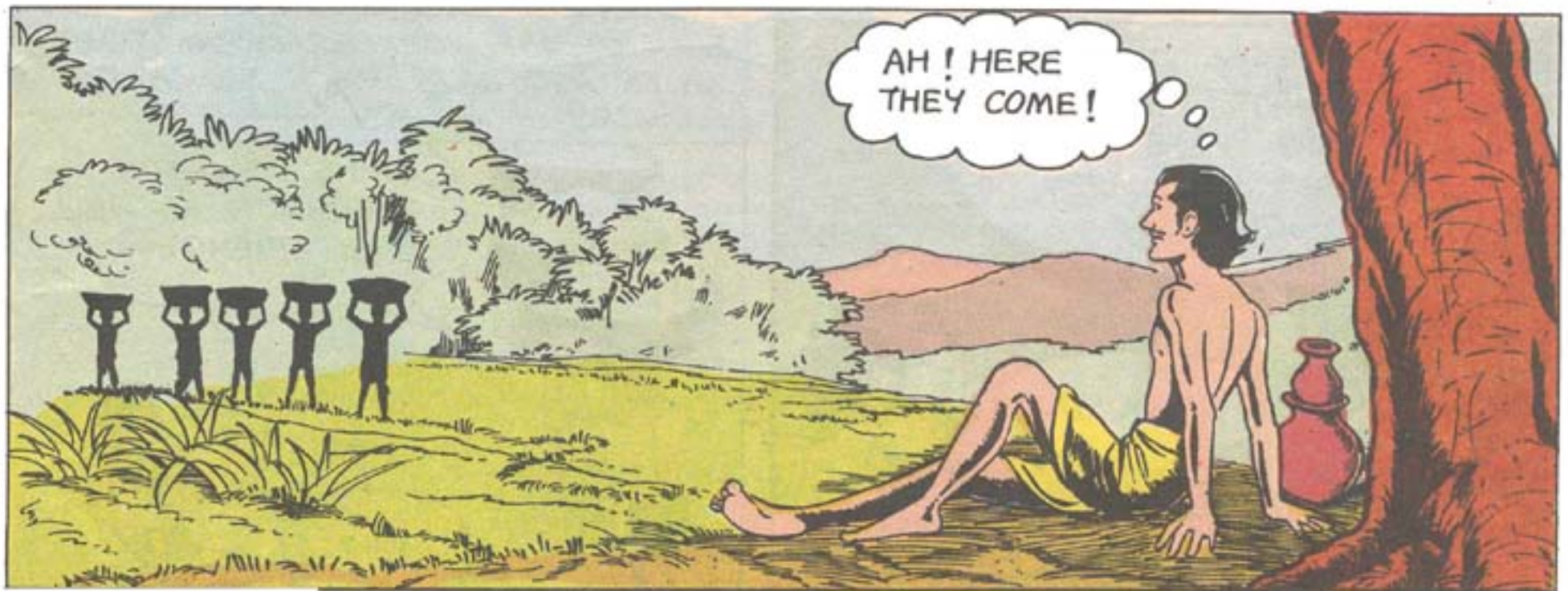
I'LL WAIT
HERE FOR THE
FLOWER-GATHERERS
TO RETURN FROM
WORK.

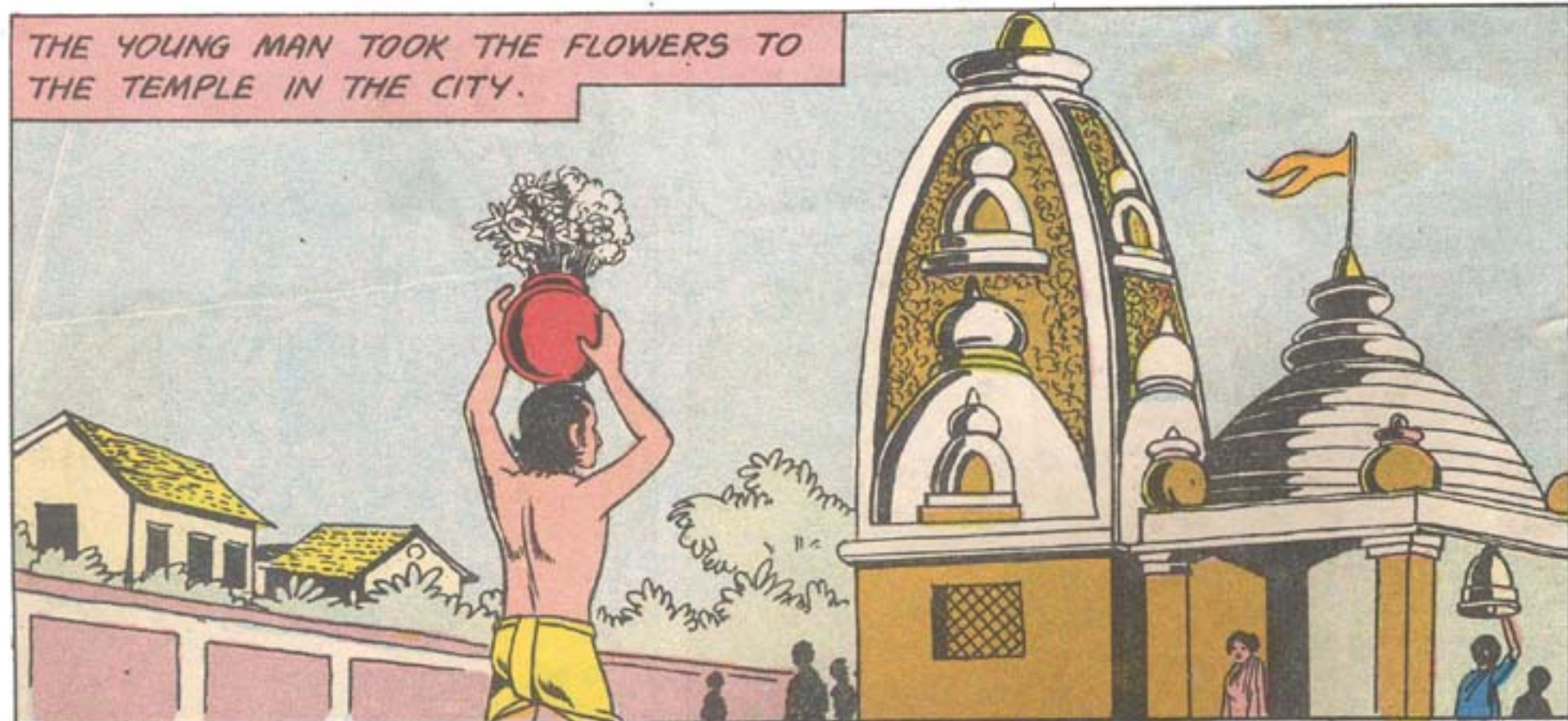
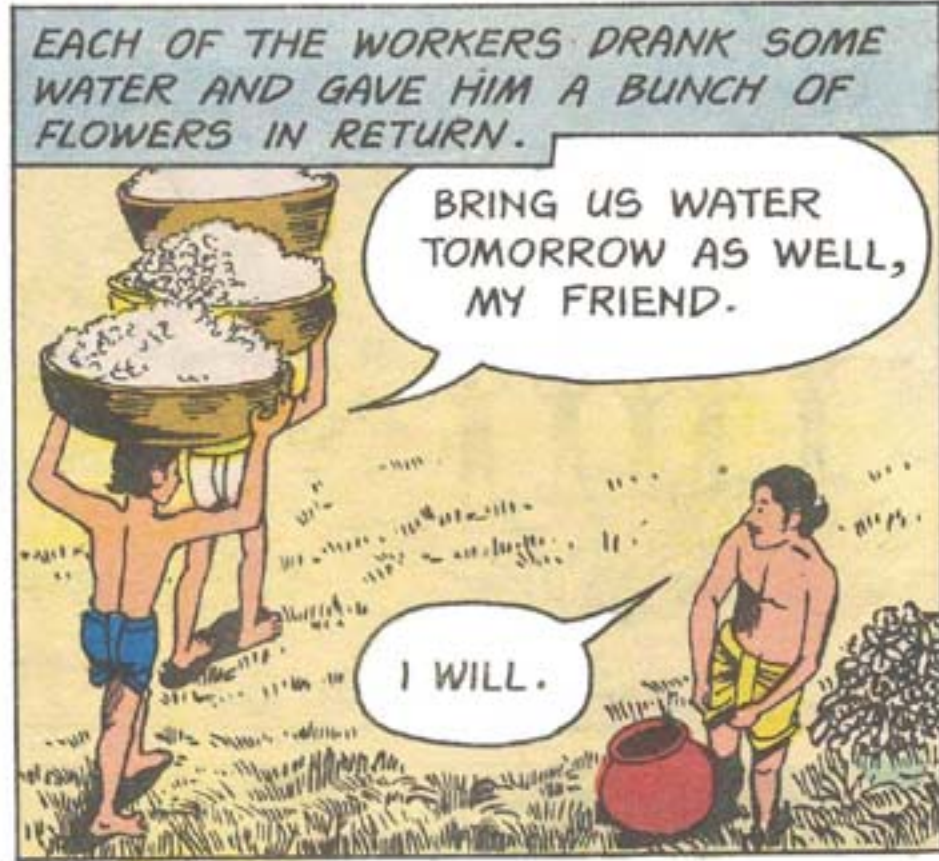


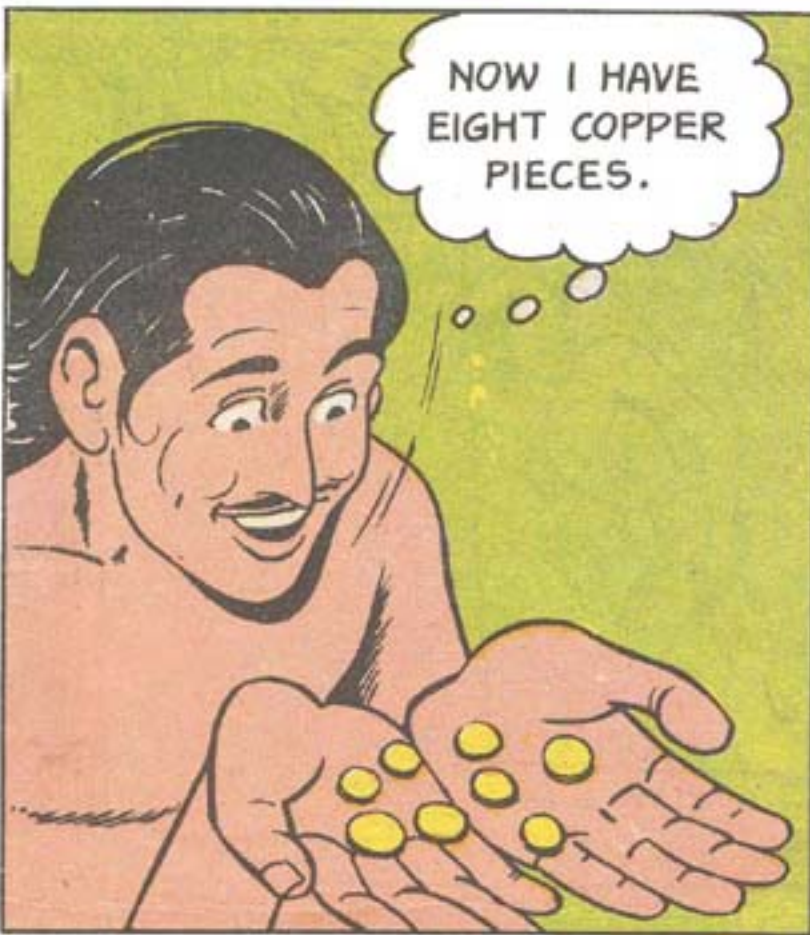
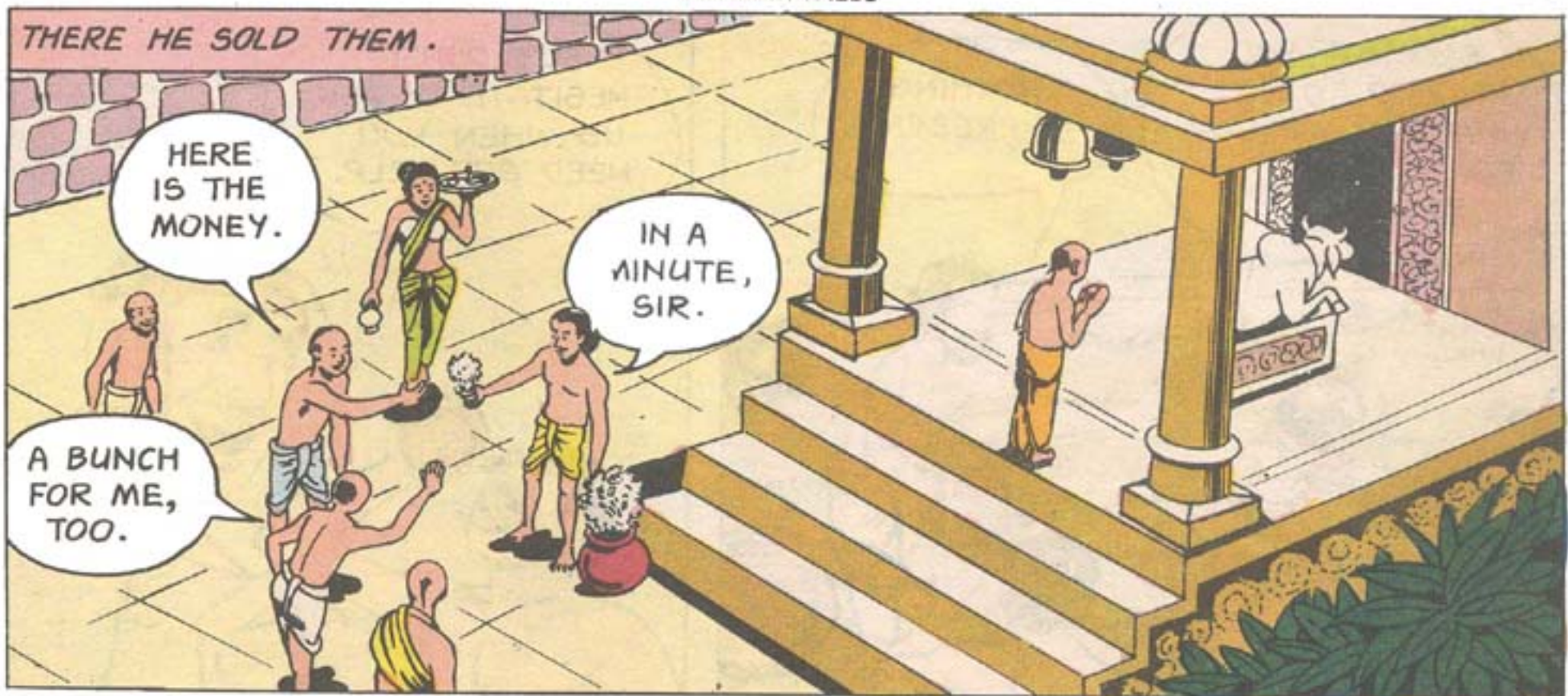
IN THE FOREST, WORKERS WERE BUSY COLLECTING FLOWERS.



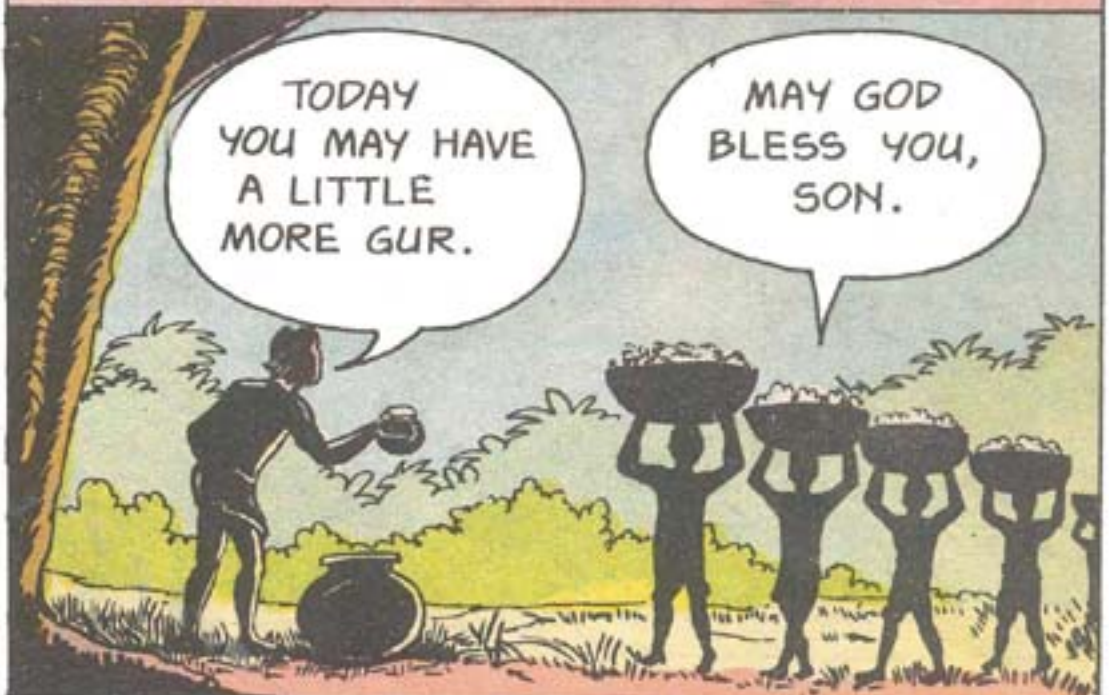
IT WAS LATE IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN THEY FINISHED THEIR WORK AND BEGAN RETURNING TO THE CITY.





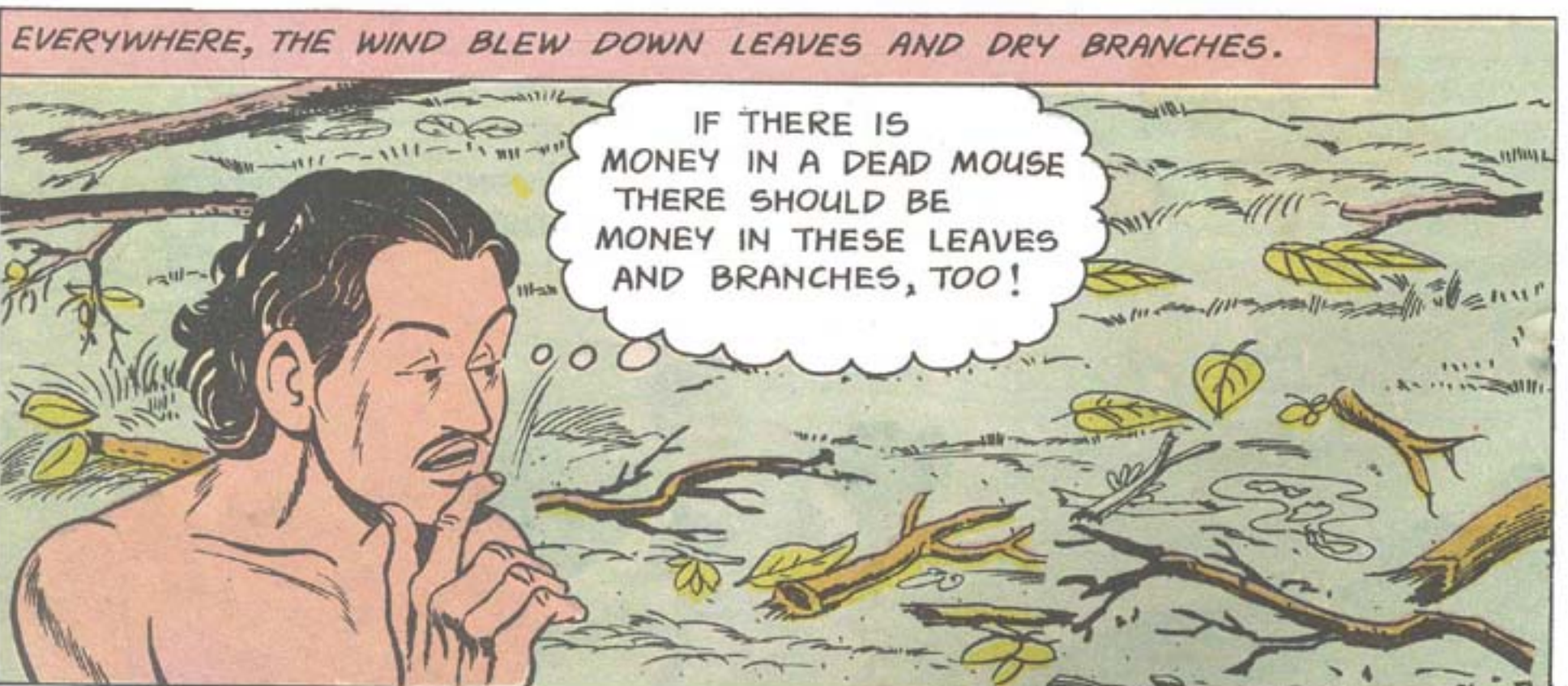
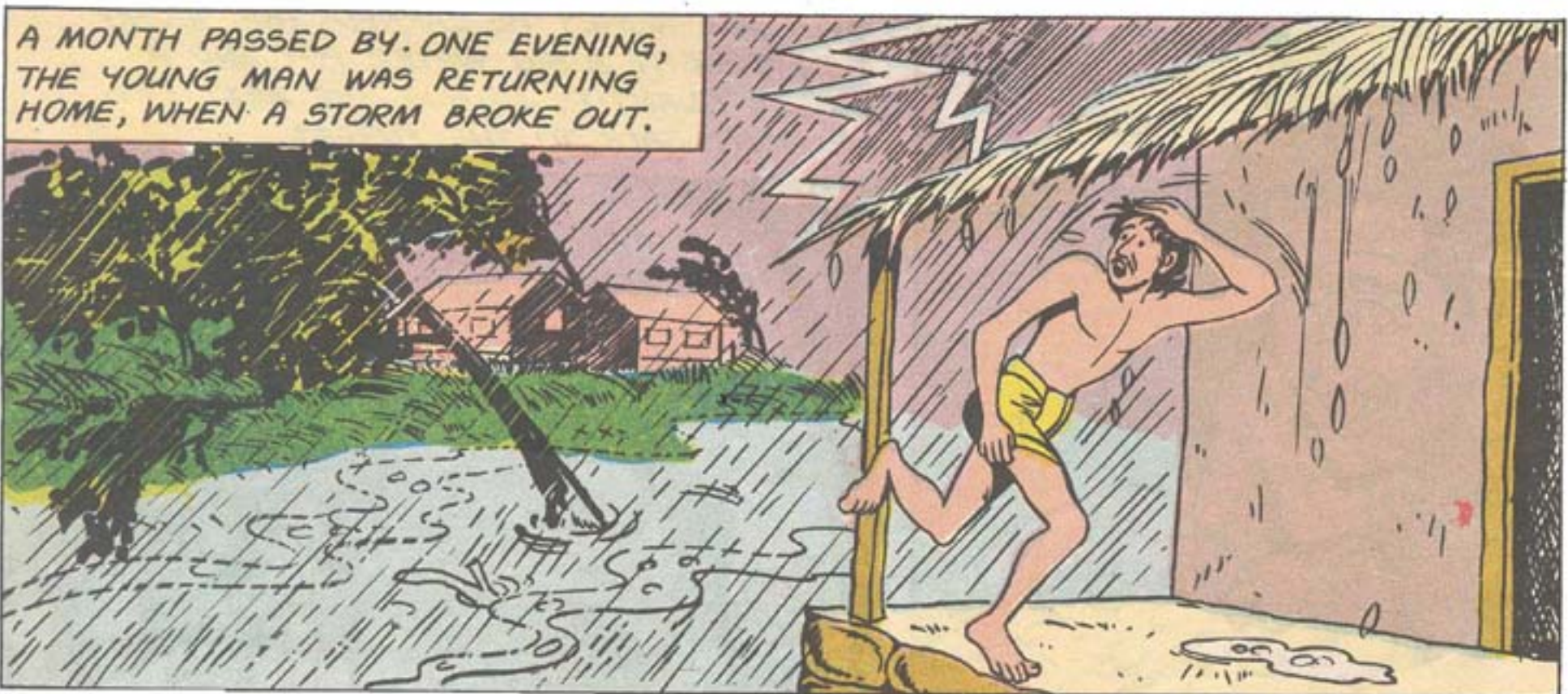
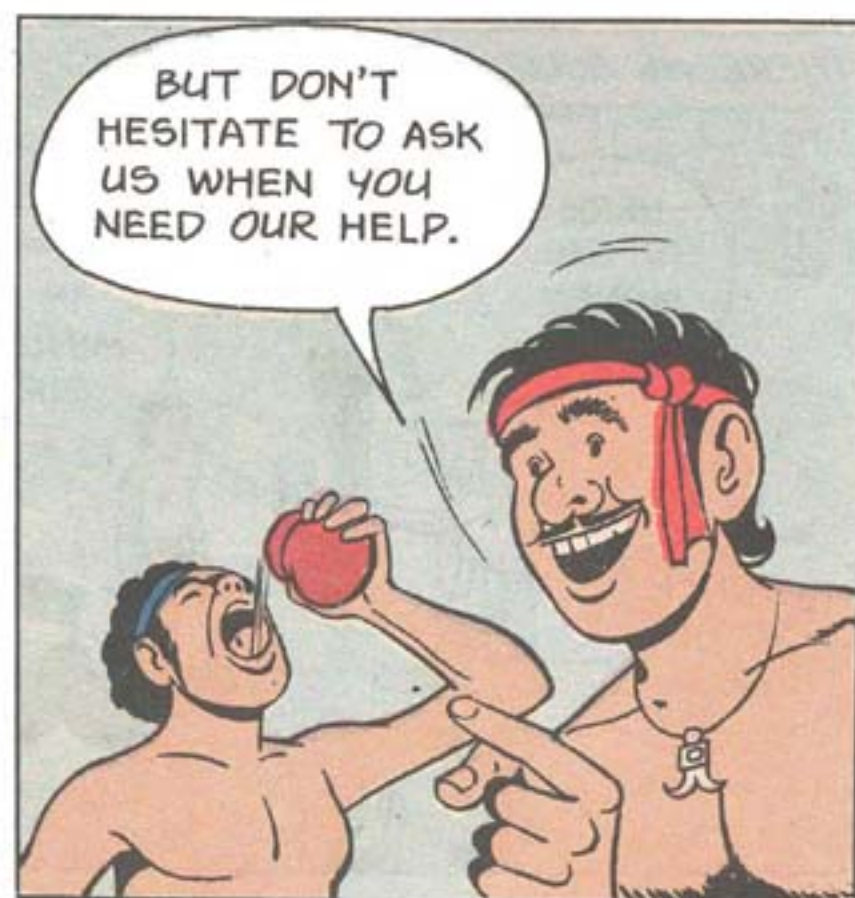
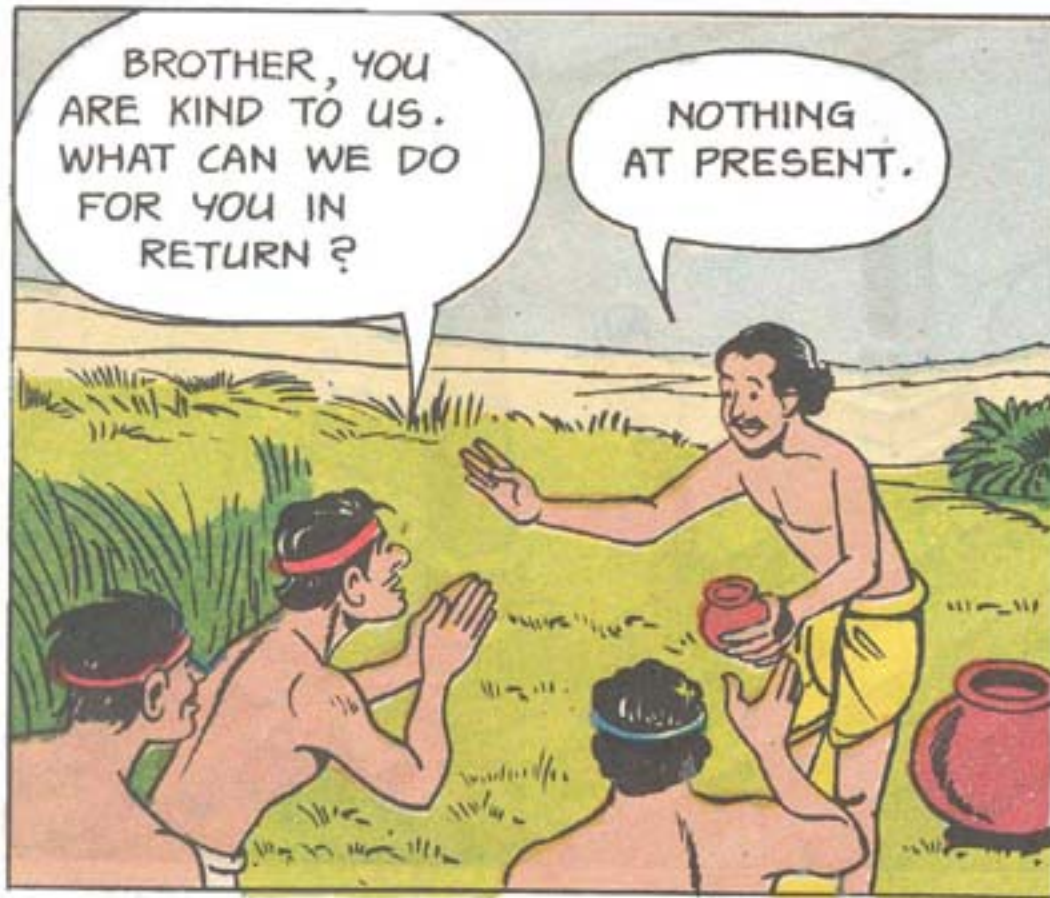


WITH THE MONEY HE EARNED, THE YOUNG MAN BOUGHT A BIG WATER POT AND A LARGER QUANTITY OF GUR. THE NEXT DAY HE WENT BACK TO THE FOREST



LATER, HE WENT EVEN FURTHER AWAY, TO THE FIELDS WHERE GRASS-CUTTERS WERE WORKING.





THE NEXT MORNING HE WENT TO THE PALACE GARDEN AND SPOKE TO THE GARDENER.



YOU LOOK
WORRIED, UNCLE.
CAN I HELP
YOU?

HOW CAN
YOU? THE GARDEN
IS LITTERED
WITH BRANCHES...

...AND THE KING IS
EXPECTED ANY MOMENT
NOW. I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO CLEAR THE
MESS BEFORE HE
COMES.

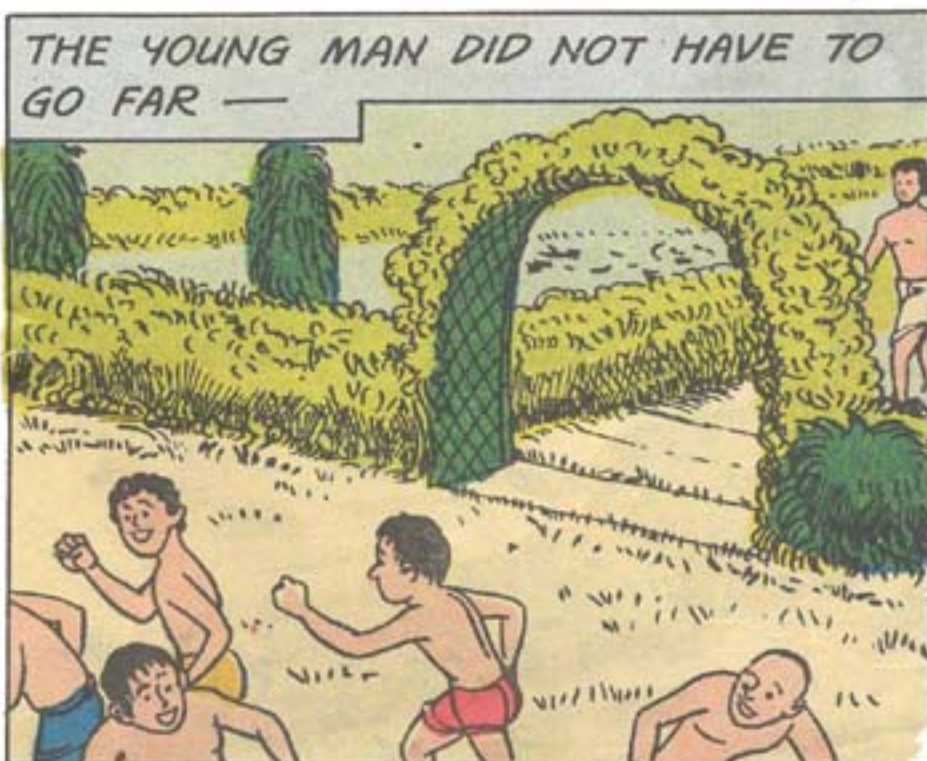
I'LL HELP YOU
IF I CAN KEEP
THE FALLEN
BRANCHES.

TAKE THEM,
SON. ONLY,
TAKE THEM
AWAY SOON.

I'LL GO AND GET
SOME HELP. I'LL
BE BACK IN A
MINUTE.



THE YOUNG MAN DID NOT HAVE TO
GO FAR —



WOULD YOU LIKE
TO HAVE SOME
GUR?

GUR! OH,
CERTAINLY!





YOU MUST COLLECT ALL THE FALLEN BRANCHES AND HEAP THEM OUTSIDE THE GARDEN.

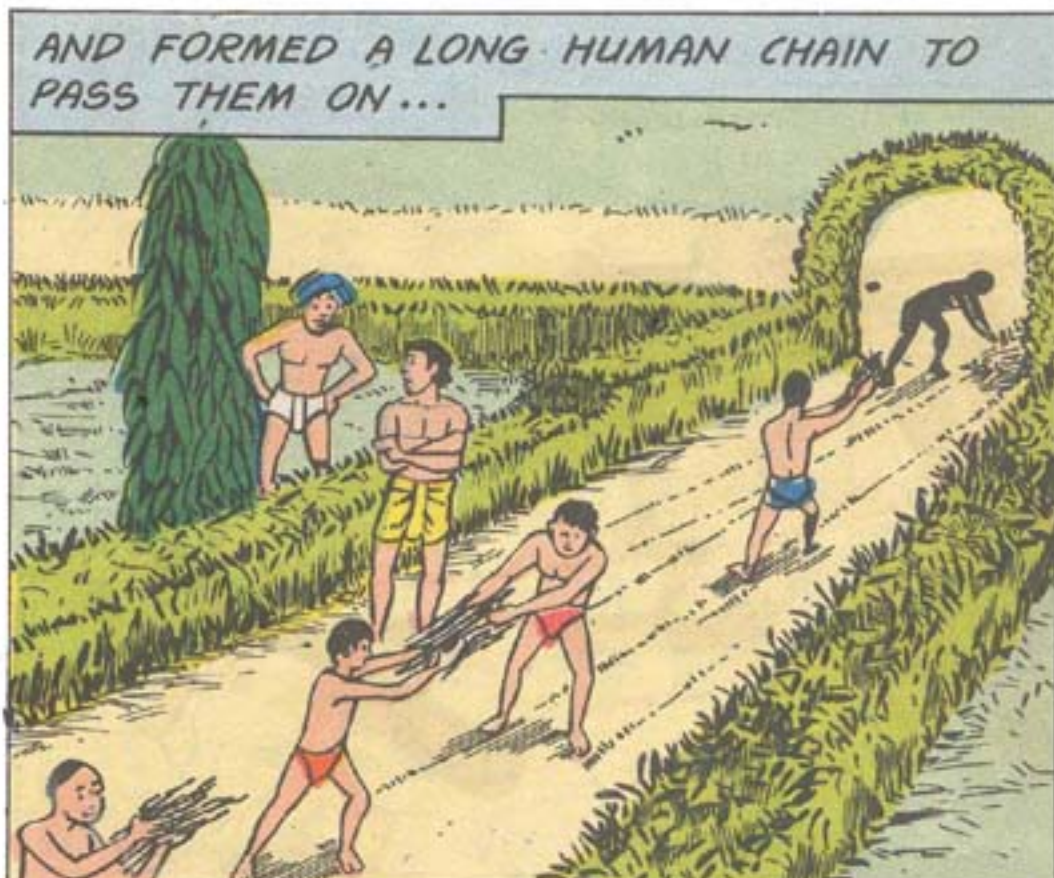
THAT'S EASY!



QUICKLY THEY GATHERED UP THE FALLEN BRANCHES.



AND FORMED A LONG HUMAN CHAIN TO PASS THEM ON...



...TO A PLACE OUTSIDE THE GARDEN.

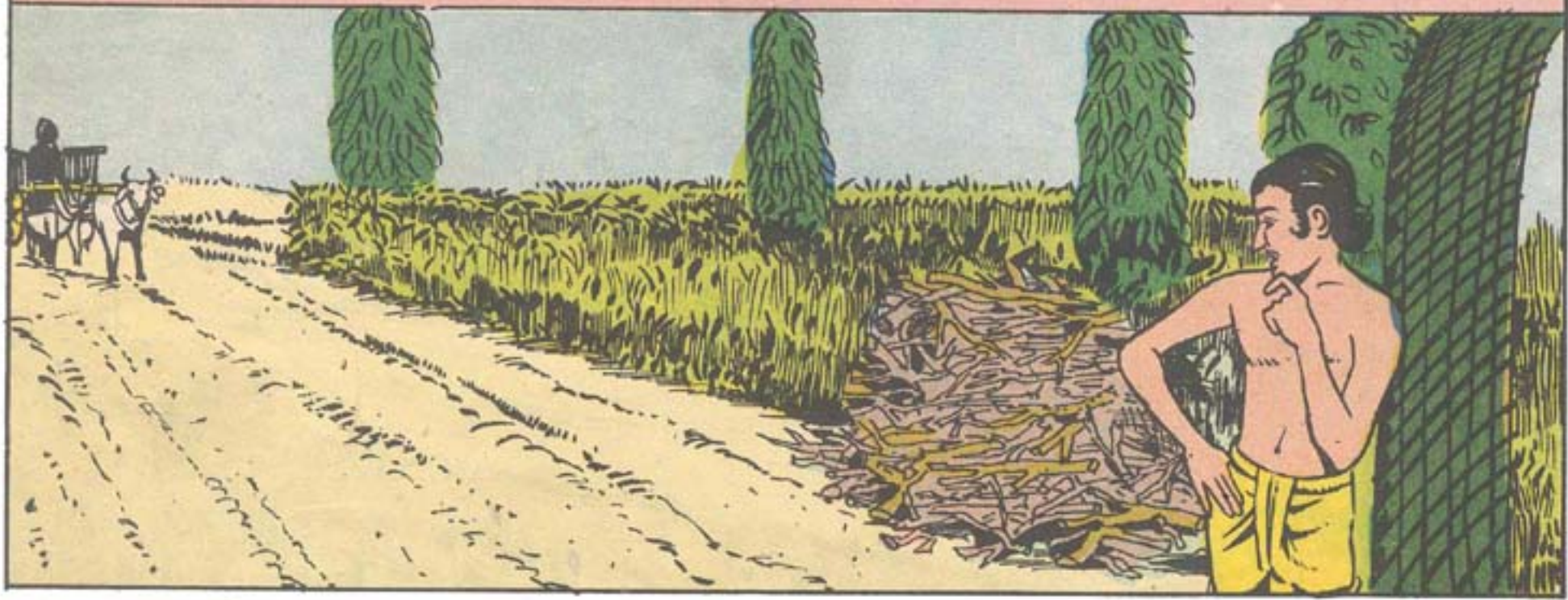
AH! YOU HAVE FINISHED!
HERE IS YOUR REWARD—
DELICIOUS GUR!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!



JUST AS THE YOUNG MAN WAS WONDERING WHAT HE SHOULD DO NEXT...



... A POTTER CAME BY AND STOPPED HIS CART.

IS THAT FOR SALE?

YES!



HERE ARE SIXTEEN COPPER PIECES. PLEASE HELP ME LOAD MY CART.

YES, OF COURSE!



NOW I HAVE ALL THE WOOD I NEED TO FIRE THE POTS SPECIALLY ORDERED BY THE KING.



THE YOUNG MAN THEN WENT WITH THE POTTER...



... TO THE MARKET.

HAVE YOU HEARD?
THE HORSE-DEALER
WILL BE COMING
TOMORROW.

YES, YES. I HEAR
HE WILL BE
BRINGING FIVE
HUNDRED HORSES
TO SELL.



AHA! THAT'S
USEFUL INFORMATION!
THANKS FOR LETTING
ME KNOW!



HURRIEDLY, HE WENT TO THE
GRASS-CUTTERS.

FRIENDS,
I SEEK A
FAVOUR OF
YOU.

AT LAST! TELL
US WHAT WE
SHOULD DO.



I WANT A
BUNDLE OF
GRASS FROM
EACH OF
YOU.

WE ARE FIVE
HUNDRED IN ALL—
SO AS MANY
BUNDLES OF
GRASS WILL BE
DELIVERED TO YOU
TONIGHT.



AND I WANT YOU
TO PROMISE THAT
TILL TOMORROW
AFTERNOON YOU
WILL NOT SELL
ANYONE ANY
GRASS AT ALL.

YOU ARE OUR
FRIEND. AND WE
WILL DO WHAT YOU
ASK WITHOUT
QUESTION.



LATE THAT EVENING —

YOU SEE,
WE HAVE
KEPT OUR
WORD!

I SHALL
BE FOREVER
INDEBTED
TO YOU.



THE NEXT MORNING THE HORSE-DEALER
ARRIVED WITH FIVE HUNDRED HORSES
AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF VARANASI.

STRANGE! NO ONE
HAS COME YET TO
SELL ME GRASS
FOR MY HORSES.

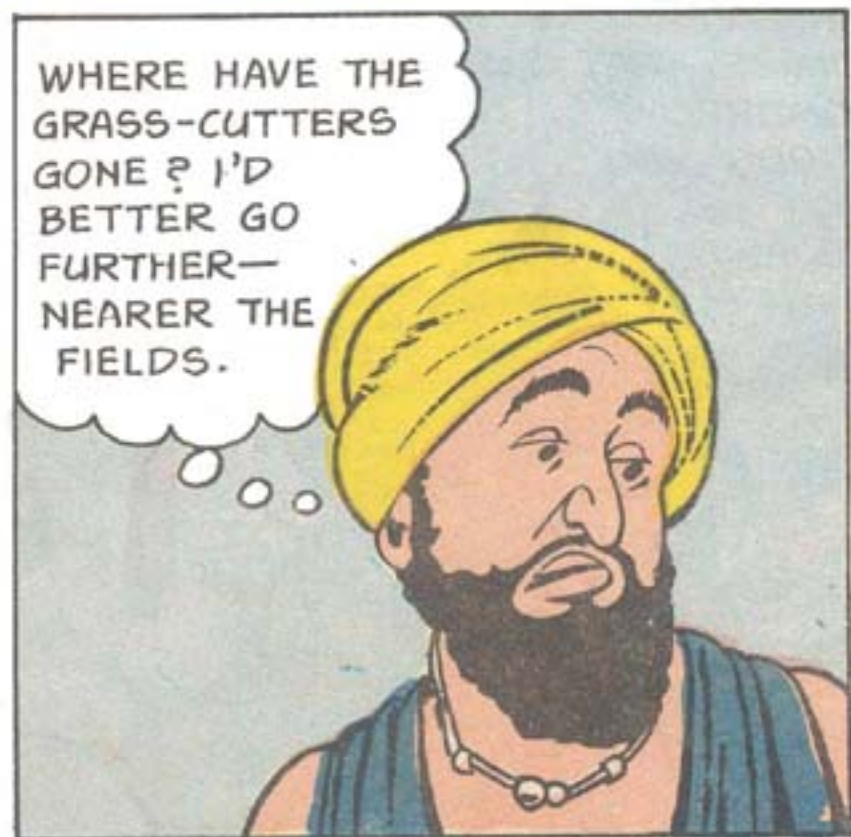


HE WENT TO THE MARKET.

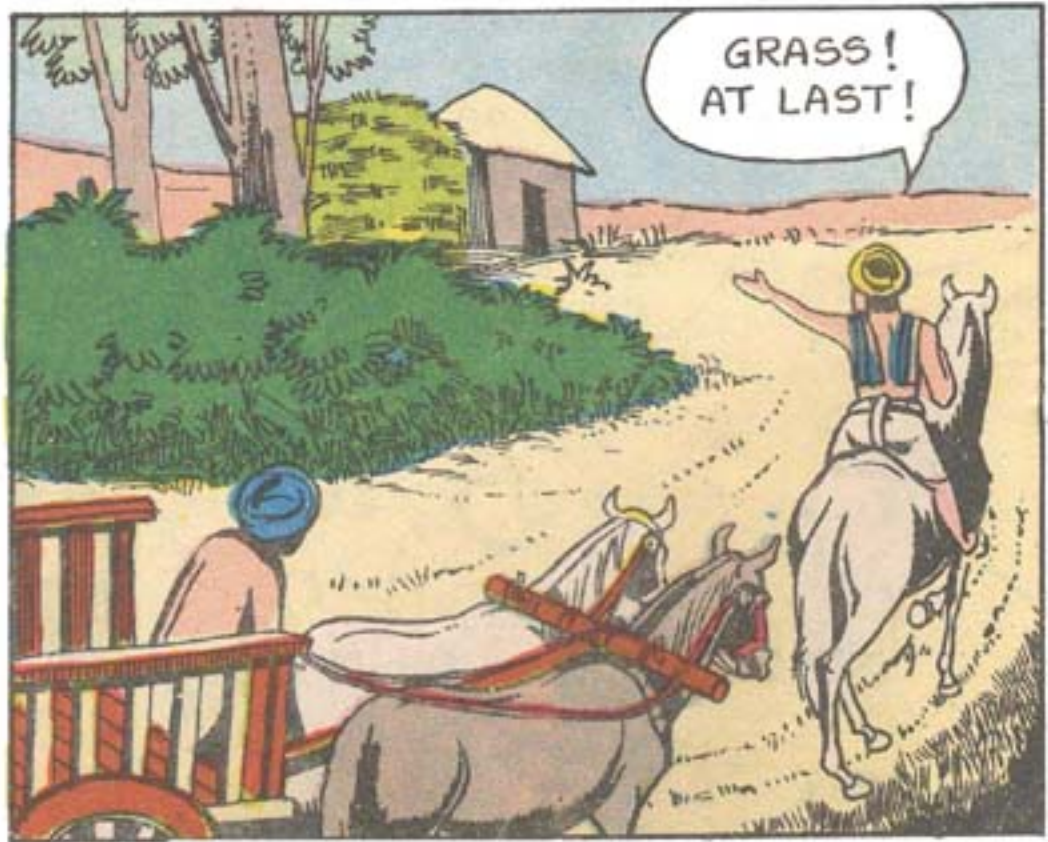
NO GRASS
IN VARANASI?

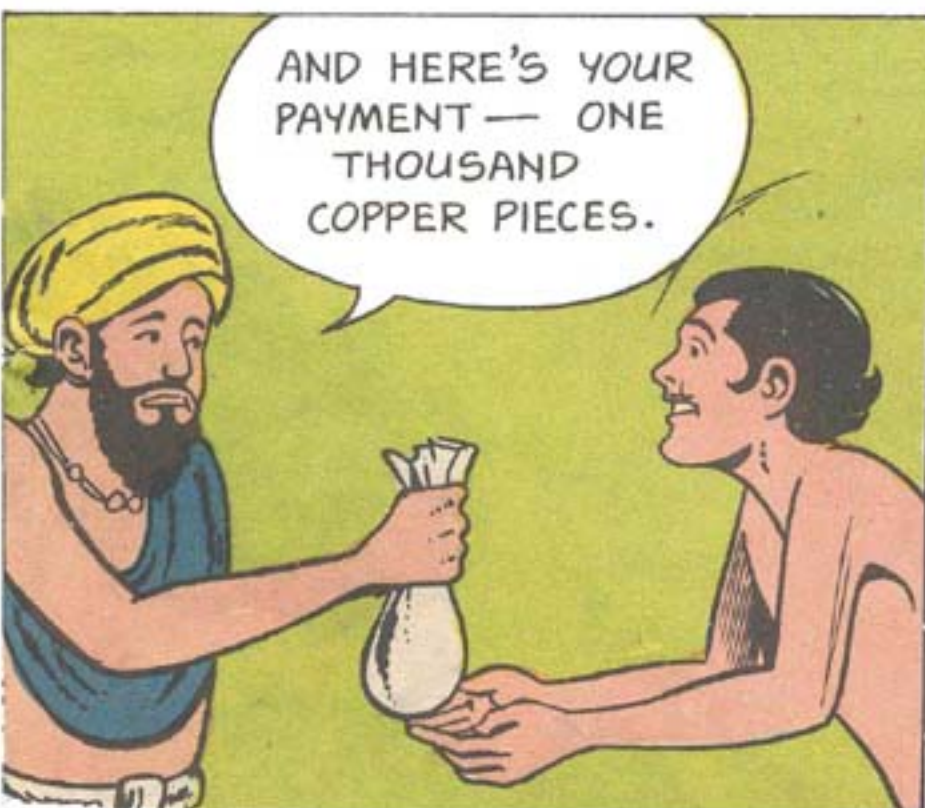
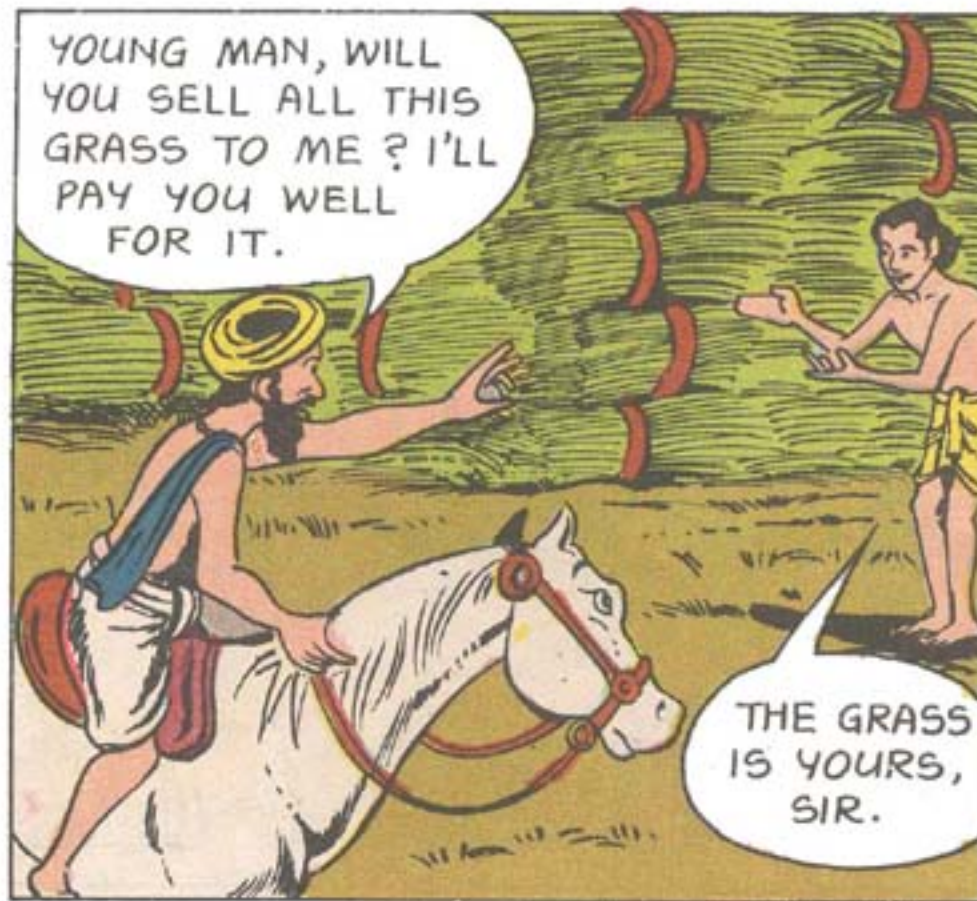


WHERE HAVE THE
GRASS-CUTTERS
GONE? I'D
BETTER GO
FURTHER—
NEARER THE
FIELDS.



GRASS!
AT LAST!

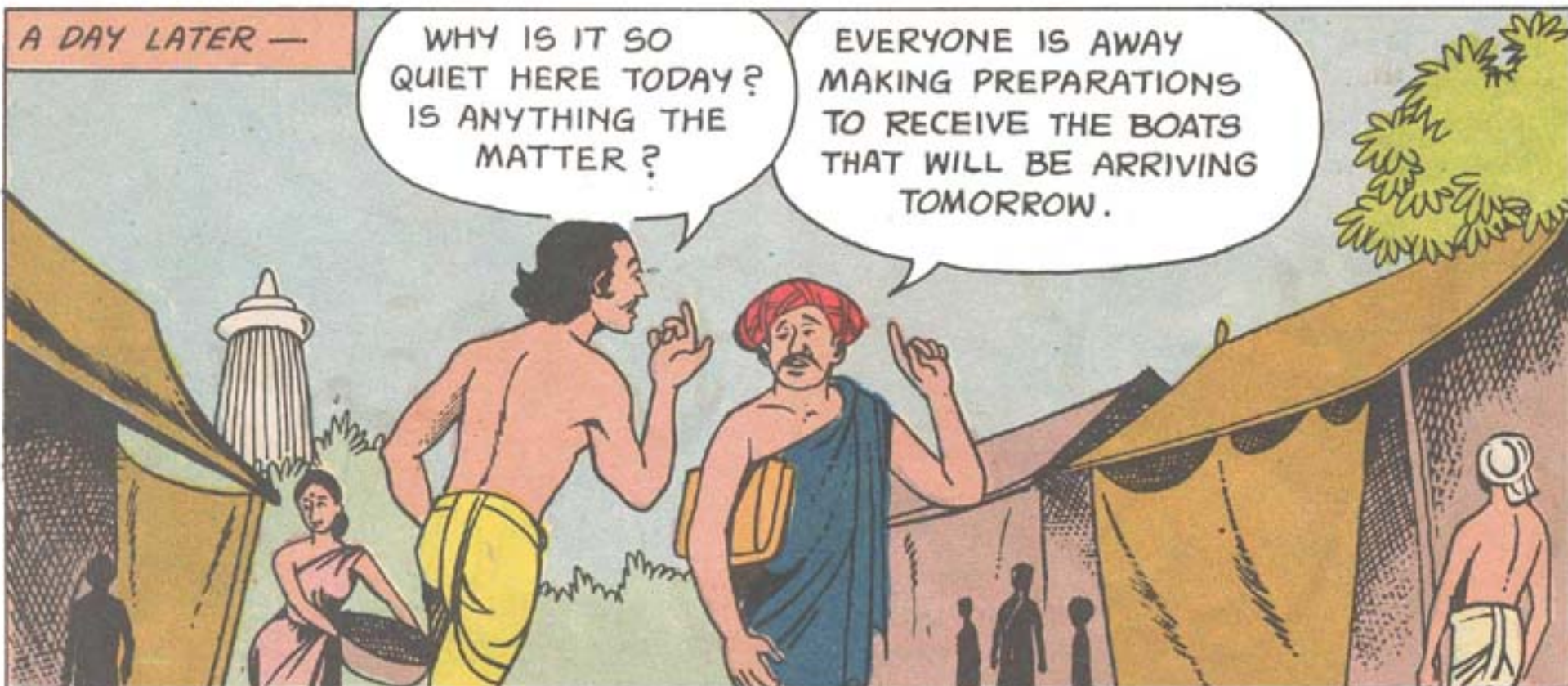




A DAY LATER —

WHY IS IT SO
QUIET HERE TODAY?
IS ANYTHING THE
MATTER?

EVERYONE IS AWAY
MAKING PREPARATIONS
TO RECEIVE THE BOATS
THAT WILL BE ARRIVING
TOMORROW.



BOATS...
ARRIVING
TOMORROW?

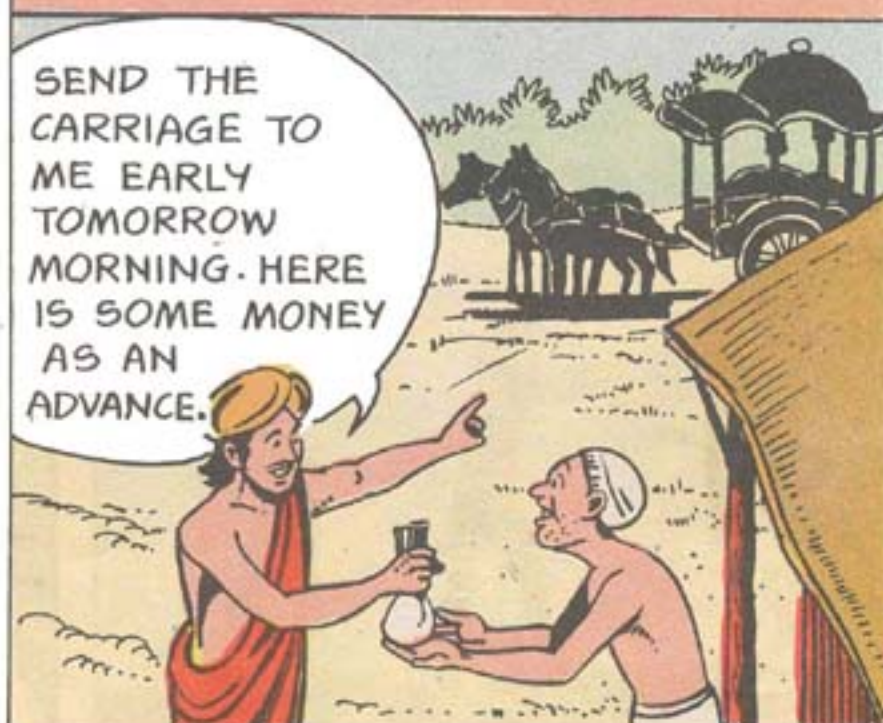


AN IDEA STRUCK HIM
LIKE LIGHTNING —

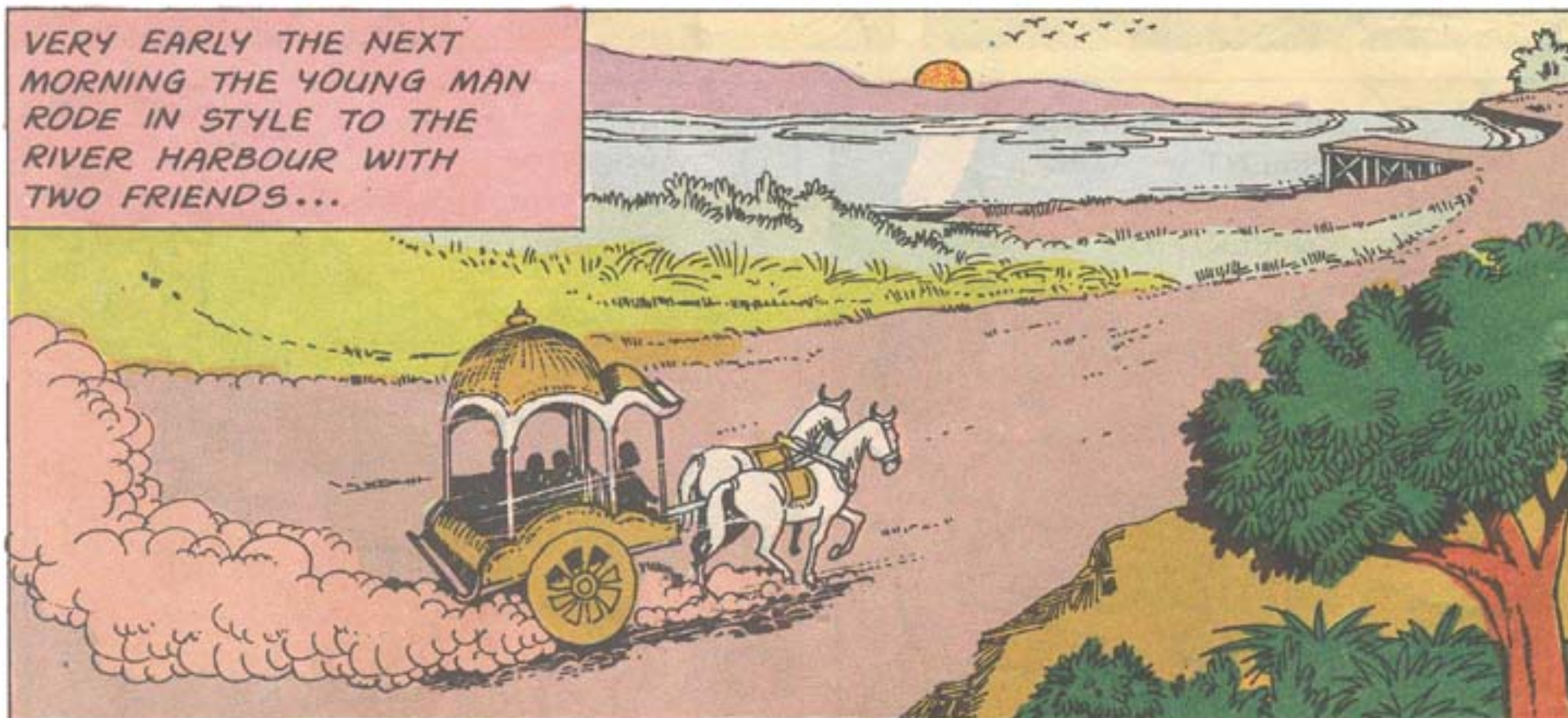


HE BOUGHT NEW CLOTHES AND
THEN WENT TO HIRE A CARRIAGE.

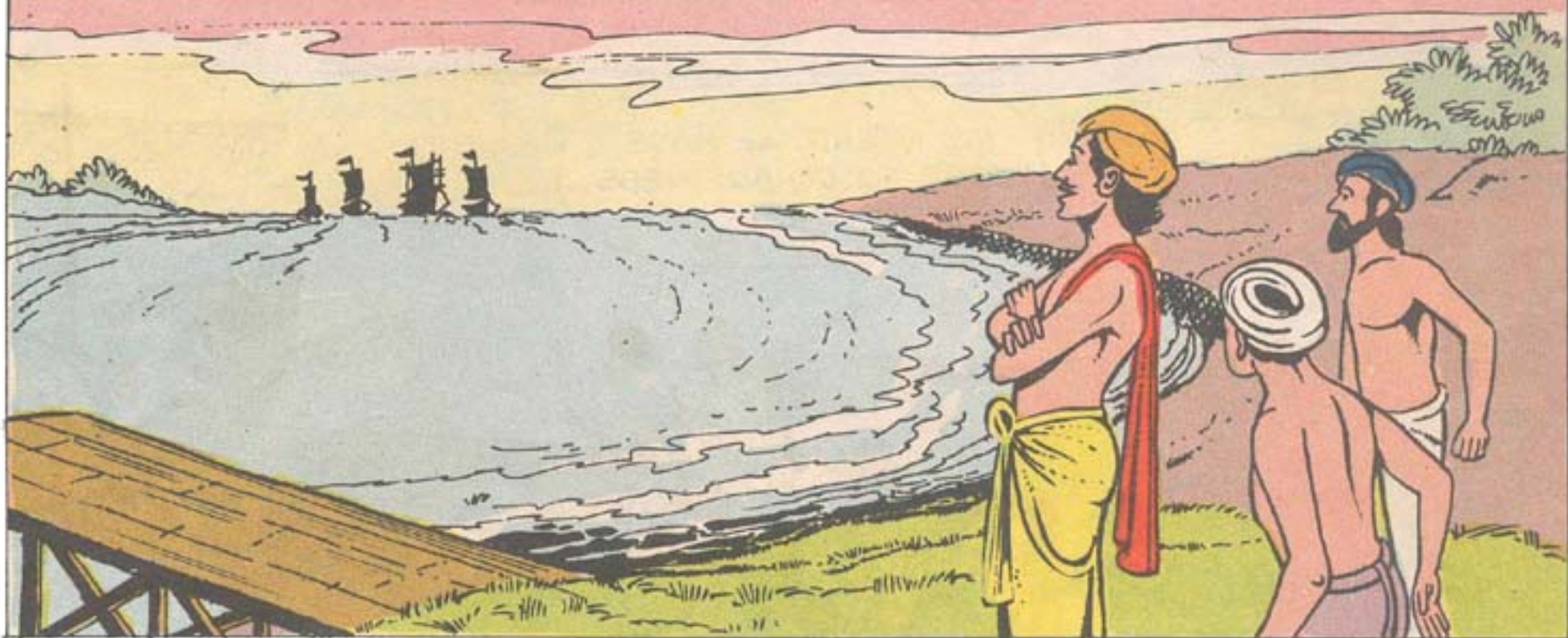
SEND THE
CARRIAGE TO
ME EARLY
TOMORROW
MORNING. HERE
IS SOME MONEY
AS AN
ADVANCE.



VERY EARLY THE NEXT
MORNING THE YOUNG MAN
RODE IN STYLE TO THE
RIVER HARBOUR WITH
TWO FRIENDS...



... AND WAITED TO RECEIVE THE VISITING MERCHANT.



HE WAS, NATURALLY, THE FIRST TO GREET THE MERCHANT.

I AM HAPPY TO MEET YOU, SIR.

WELCOME TO VARANASI!



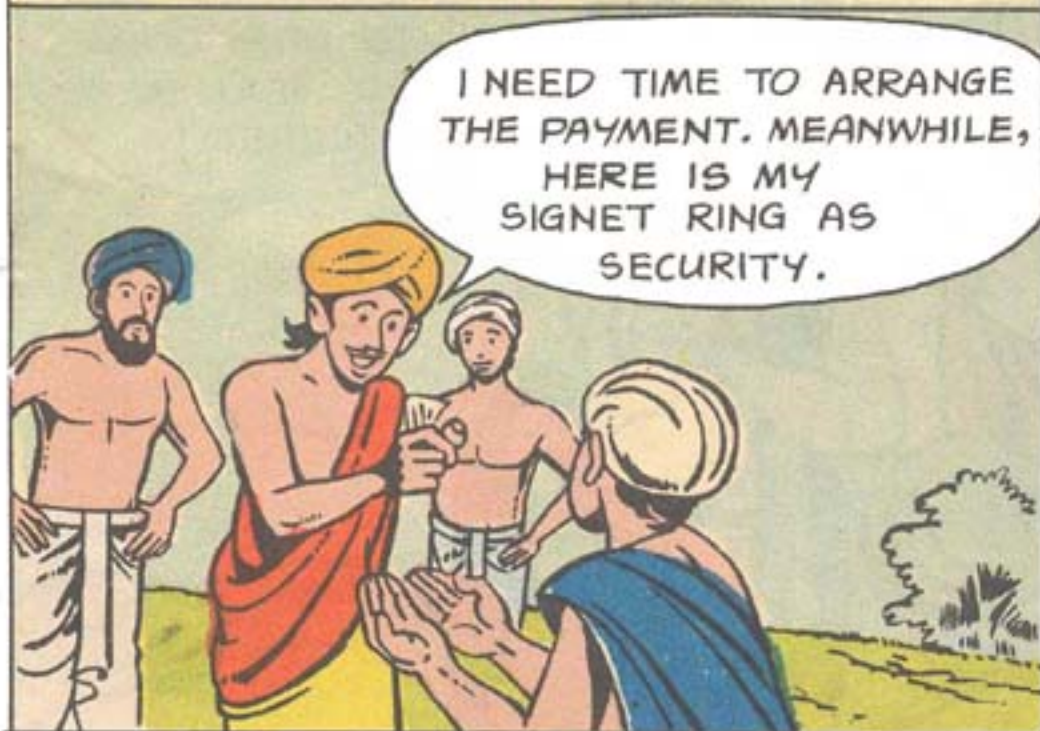
I WANT TO BUY ALL THE MERCHANDISE YOU HAVE BROUGHT.

RIGHT. IT IS A PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU.



THE MERCHANT QUOTED A PRICE TO WHICH THE YOUNG MAN READILY AGREED.

I NEED TIME TO ARRANGE THE PAYMENT. MEANWHILE, HERE IS MY SIGNET RING AS SECURITY.



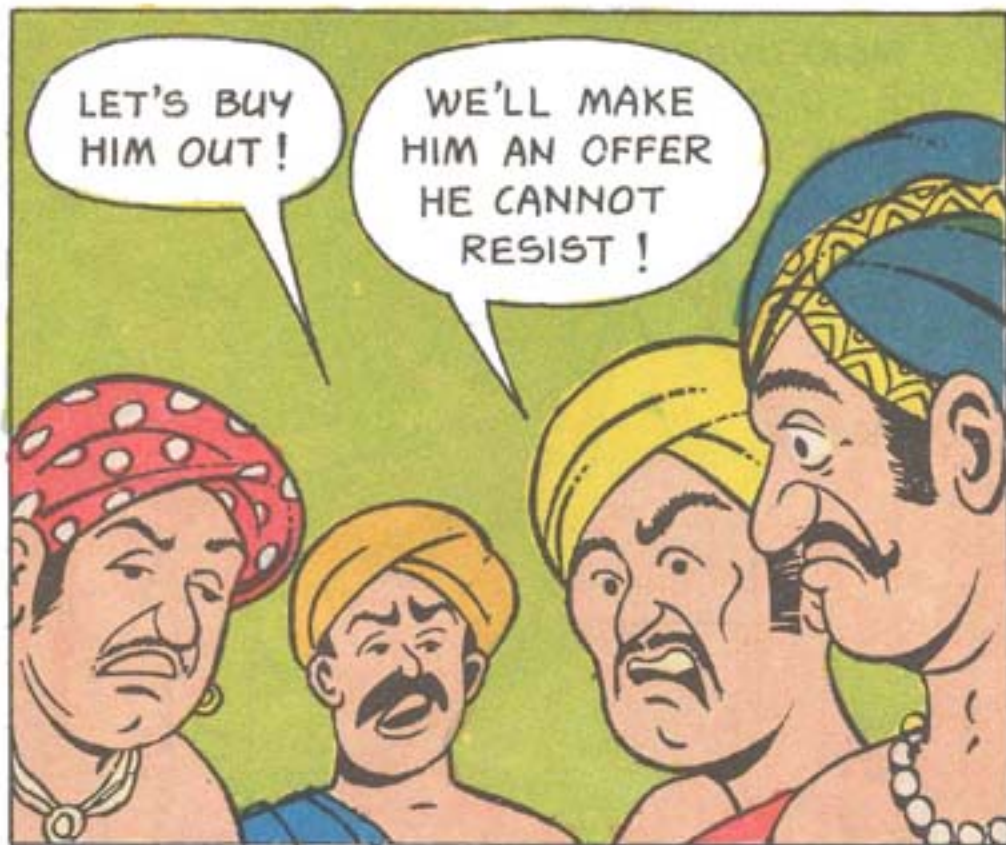
THEN THE YOUNG MAN SET UP A CANVAS SHELTER AND WAITED —

WHEN THE CITY MERCHANTS COME, BRING THEM IN WITH DUE COURTESY.



AT DAYBREAK, A HUNDRED MERCHANTS CAME TO THE HARBOUR.







HAVING AGREED TO THE DEAL, THE YOUNG MAN RETURNED HOME —



TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE, HE WENT TO CALL ON THE TREASURER, TAKING HALF HIS PROFITS WITH HIM.

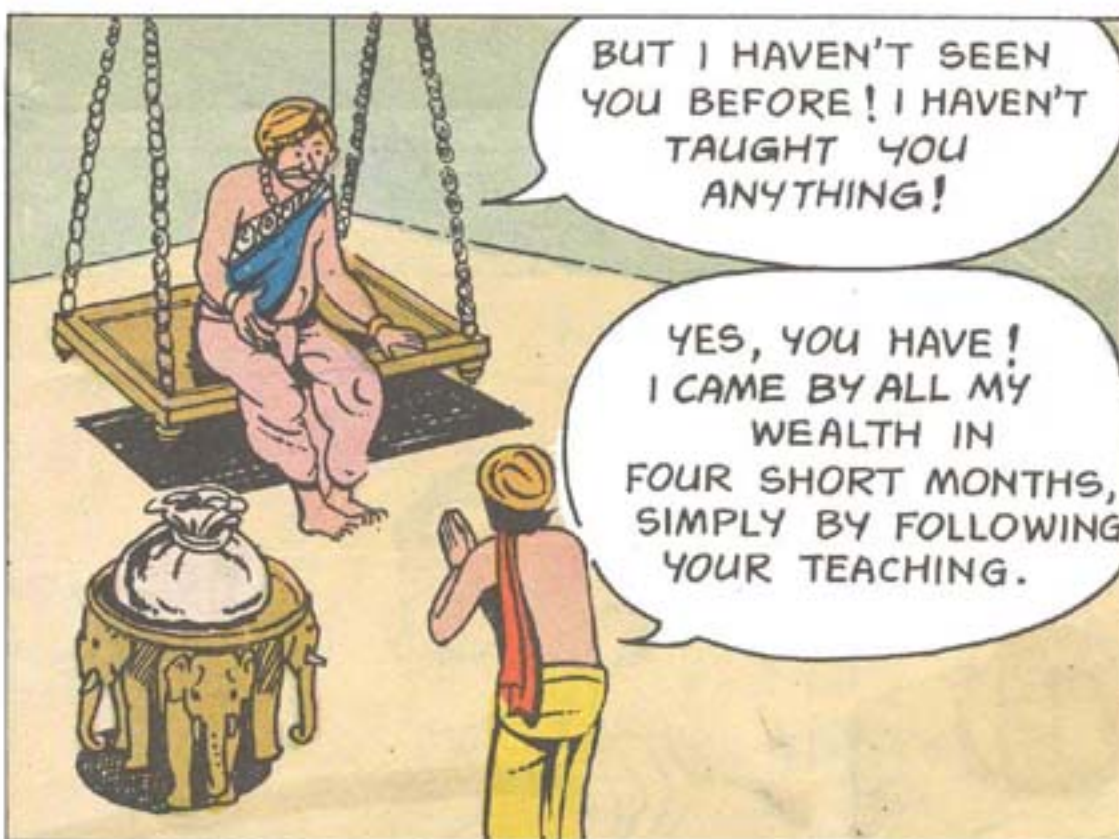
SIR, PERMIT ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH THESE COINS AS MY HUMBLE GURU-DAKSHINA.

GURU-DAKSHINA!



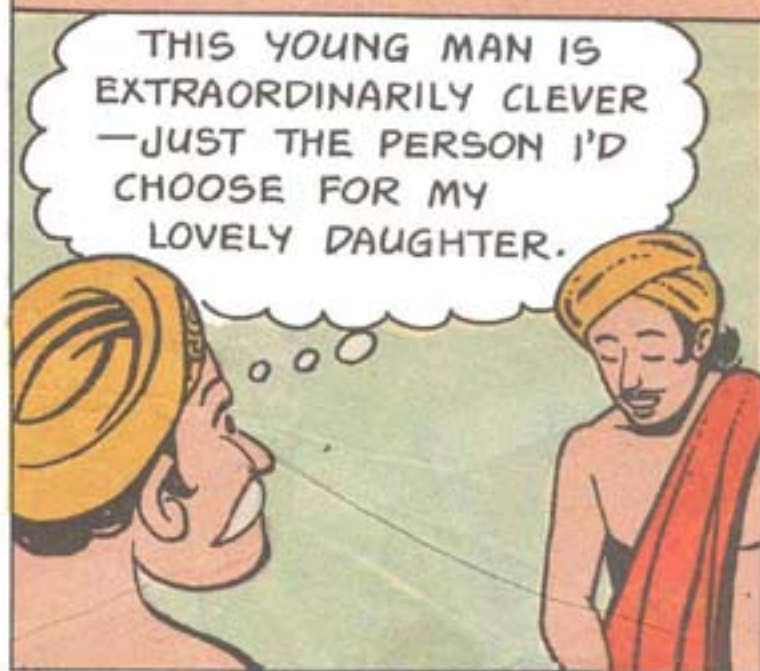
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE! I HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING!

YES, YOU HAVE! I CAME BY ALL MY WEALTH IN FOUR SHORT MONTHS, SIMPLY BY FOLLOWING YOUR TEACHING.



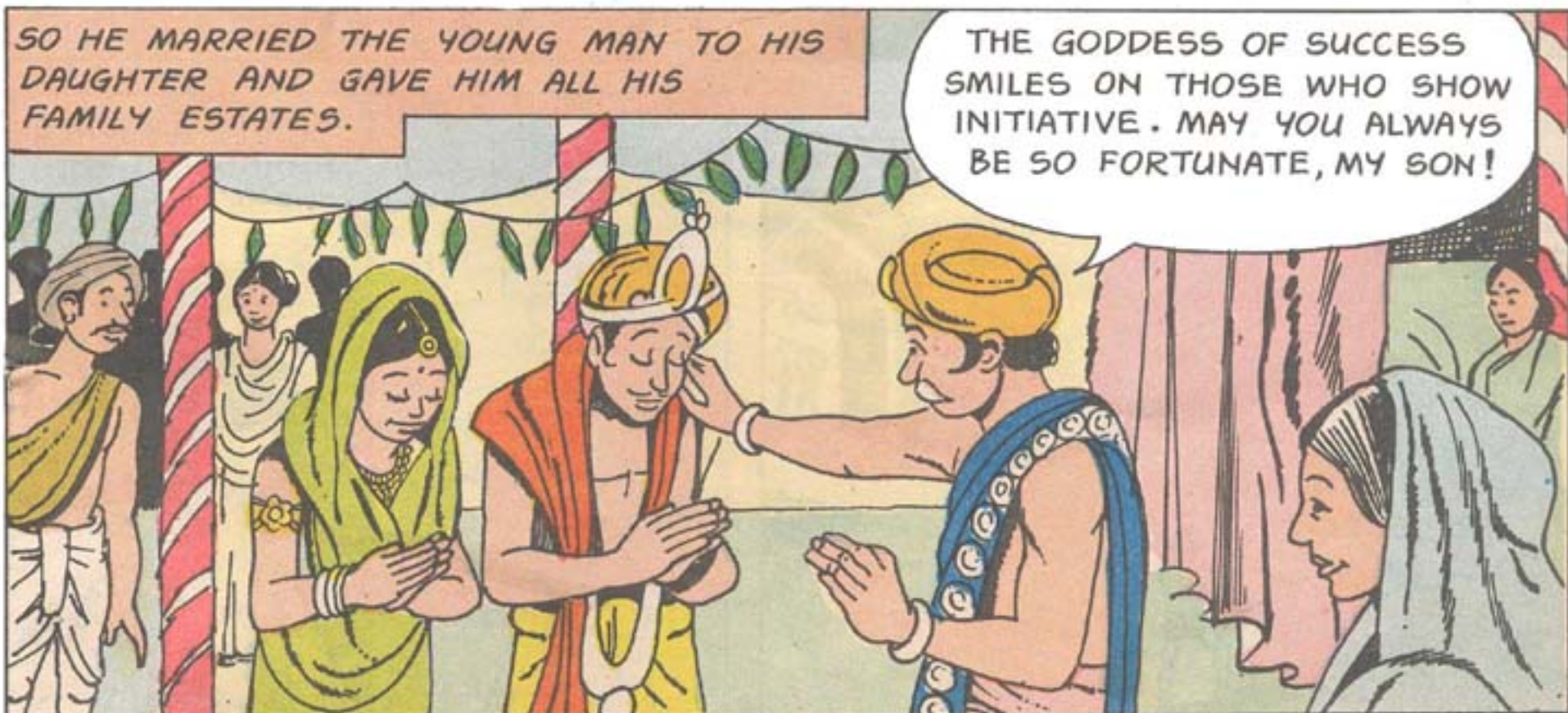
THEN HE TOLD THE TREASURER THE WHOLE STORY, STARTING WITH THE DEAD MOUSE —

THIS YOUNG MAN IS EXTRAORDINARILY CLEVER — JUST THE PERSON I'D CHOOSE FOR MY LOVELY DAUGHTER.

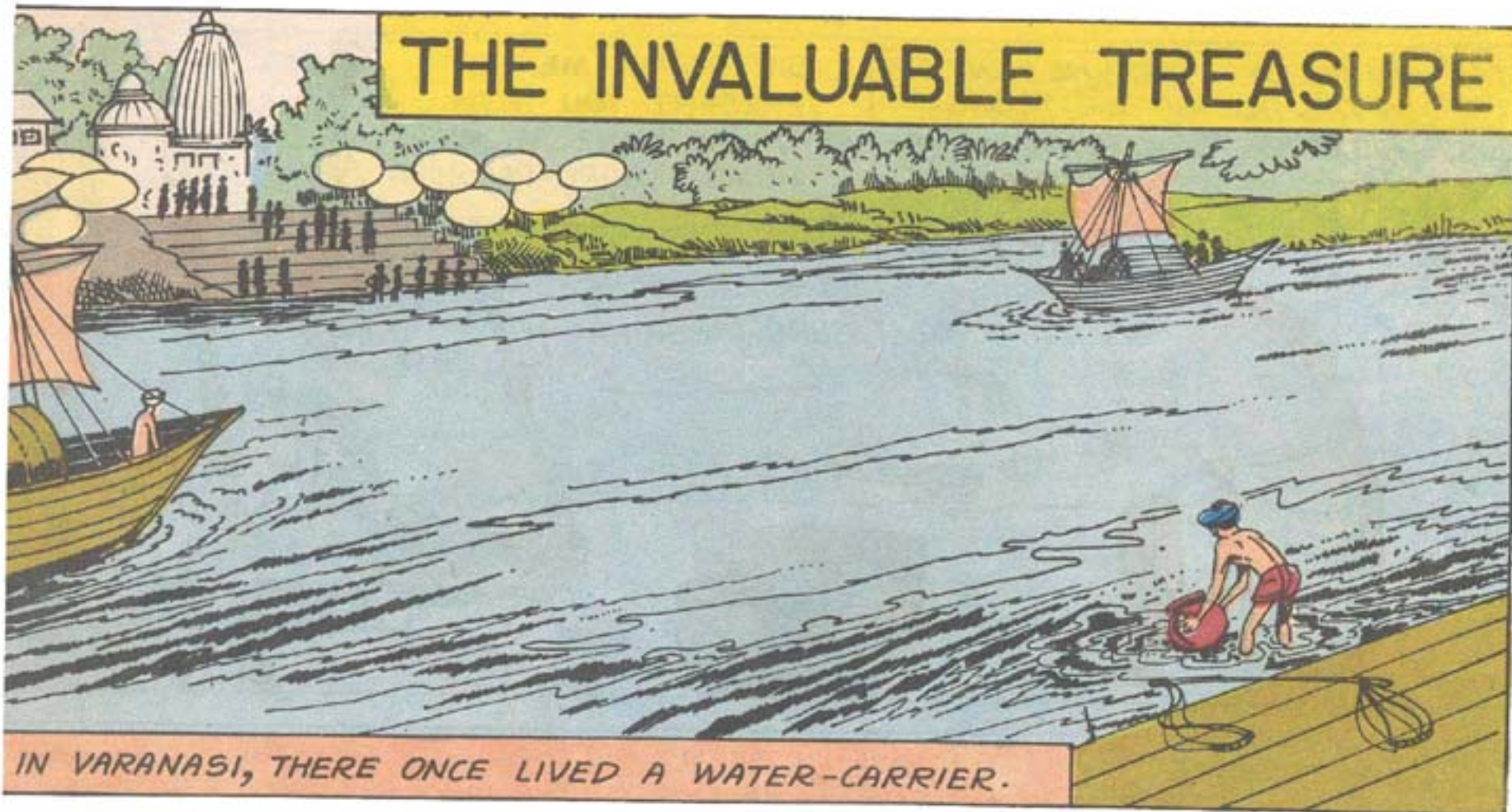


SO HE MARRIED THE YOUNG MAN TO HIS DAUGHTER AND GAVE HIM ALL HIS FAMILY ESTATES.

THE GODDESS OF SUCCESS SMILES ON THOSE WHO SHOW INITIATIVE. MAY YOU ALWAYS BE SO FORTUNATE, MY SON!

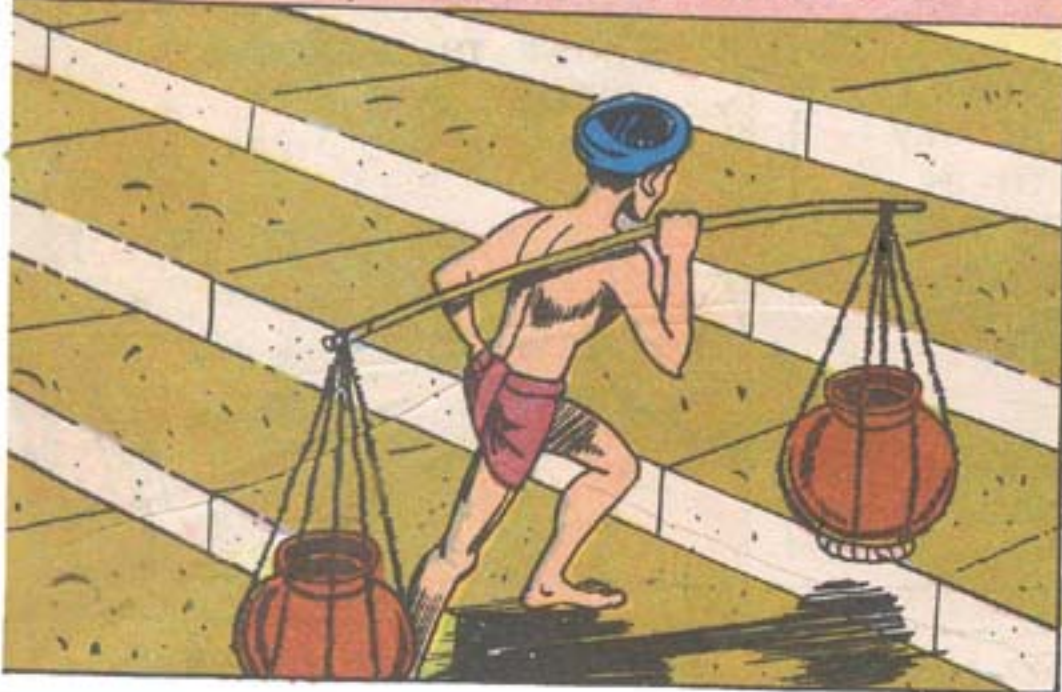


THE INVALUABLE TREASURE



IN VARANASI, THERE ONCE LIVED A WATER-CARRIER.

THOUGH HE WORKED HARD, HE BARELY
EARNED ENOUGH FOR TWO MEALS A DAY.



HOWEVER, ONE DAY HE MADE A
LITTLE EXTRA MONEY.



HE BEGAN GENTLY TO TAP AT THE BRICKS.

AH! I THINK
I'VE FOUND
A LOOSE
BRICK!



IT'S THE FIRST
BRICK TO THE
LEFT OF THE
NORTHERN GATE...



...AND THE TENTH
ONE FROM THE
GROUND LEVEL.



THE PLACE
WILL BE
EASY TO
REMEMBER.

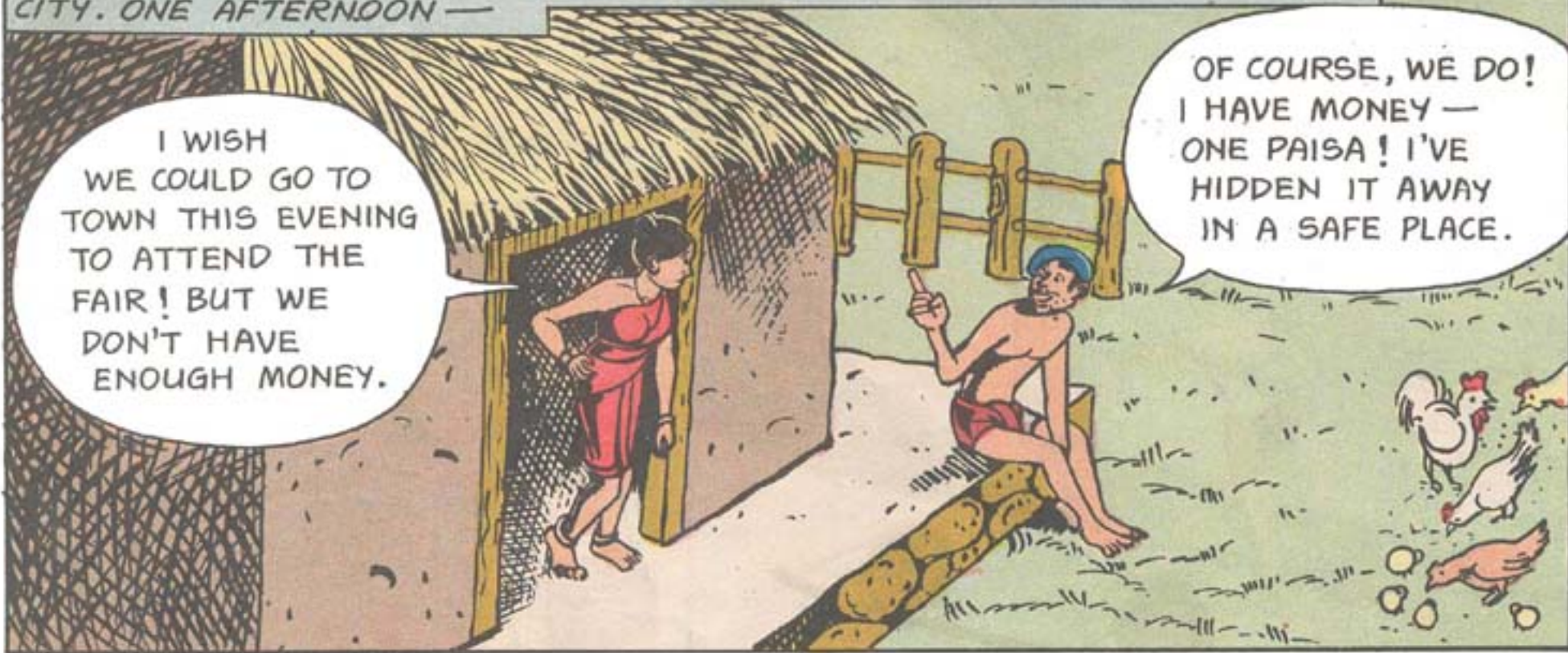


THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME HE HAD EARNED A LITTLE MORE THAN HE
ABSOLUTELY NEEDED. HE HAD NEVER HAD SUCH LUCK BEFORE.

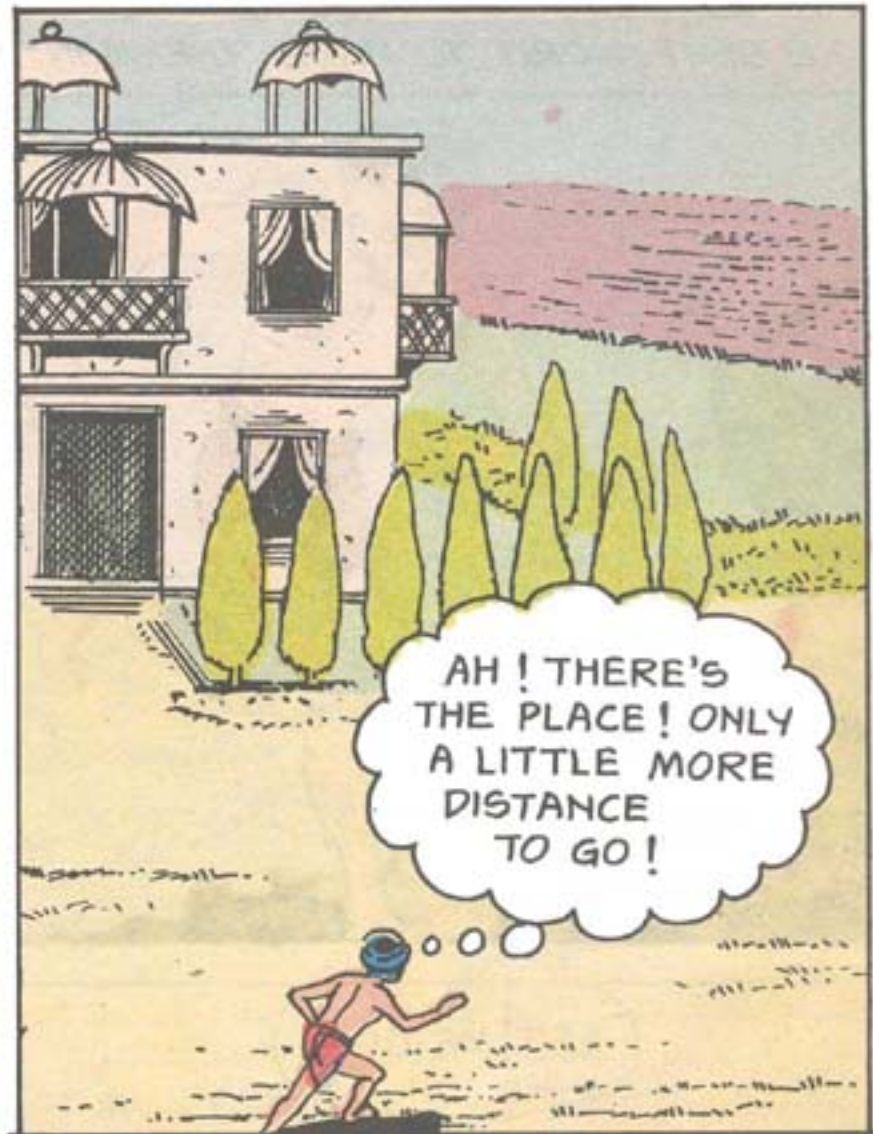
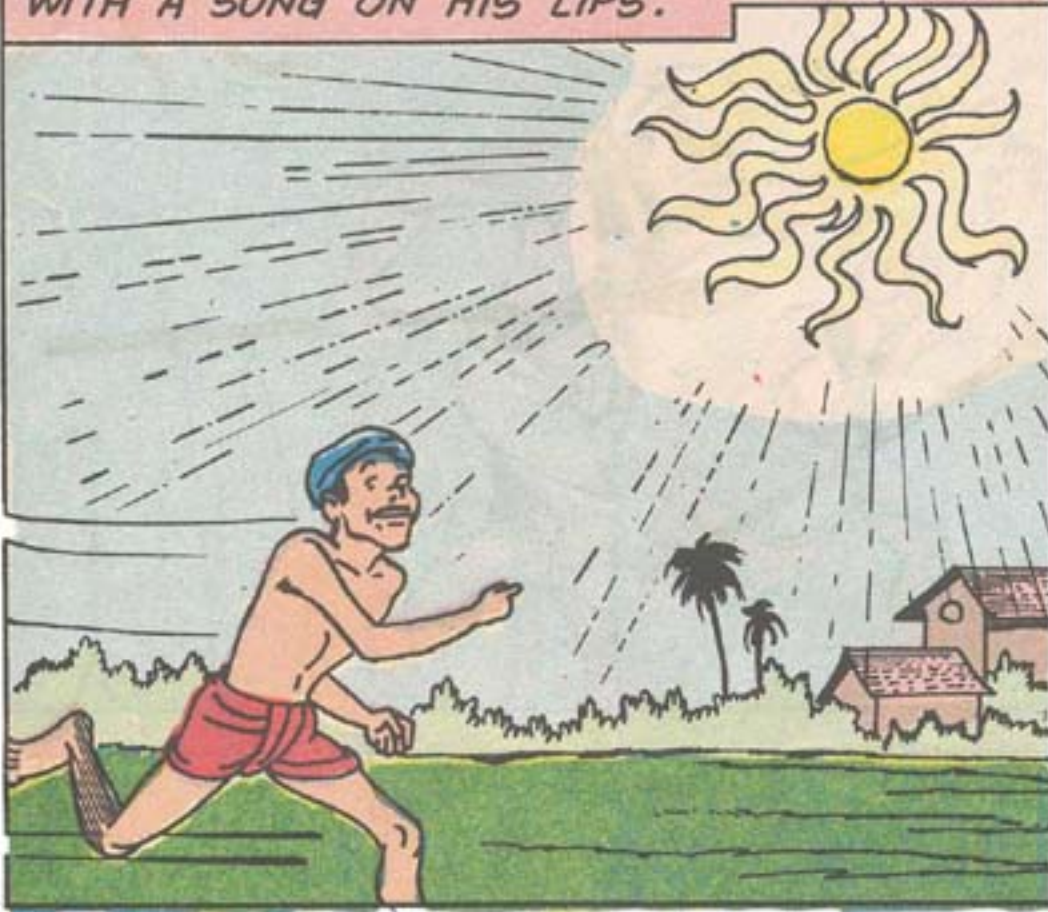
AH! MY TREASURE
IS SAFE THERE.
I AM A RICH
MAN!



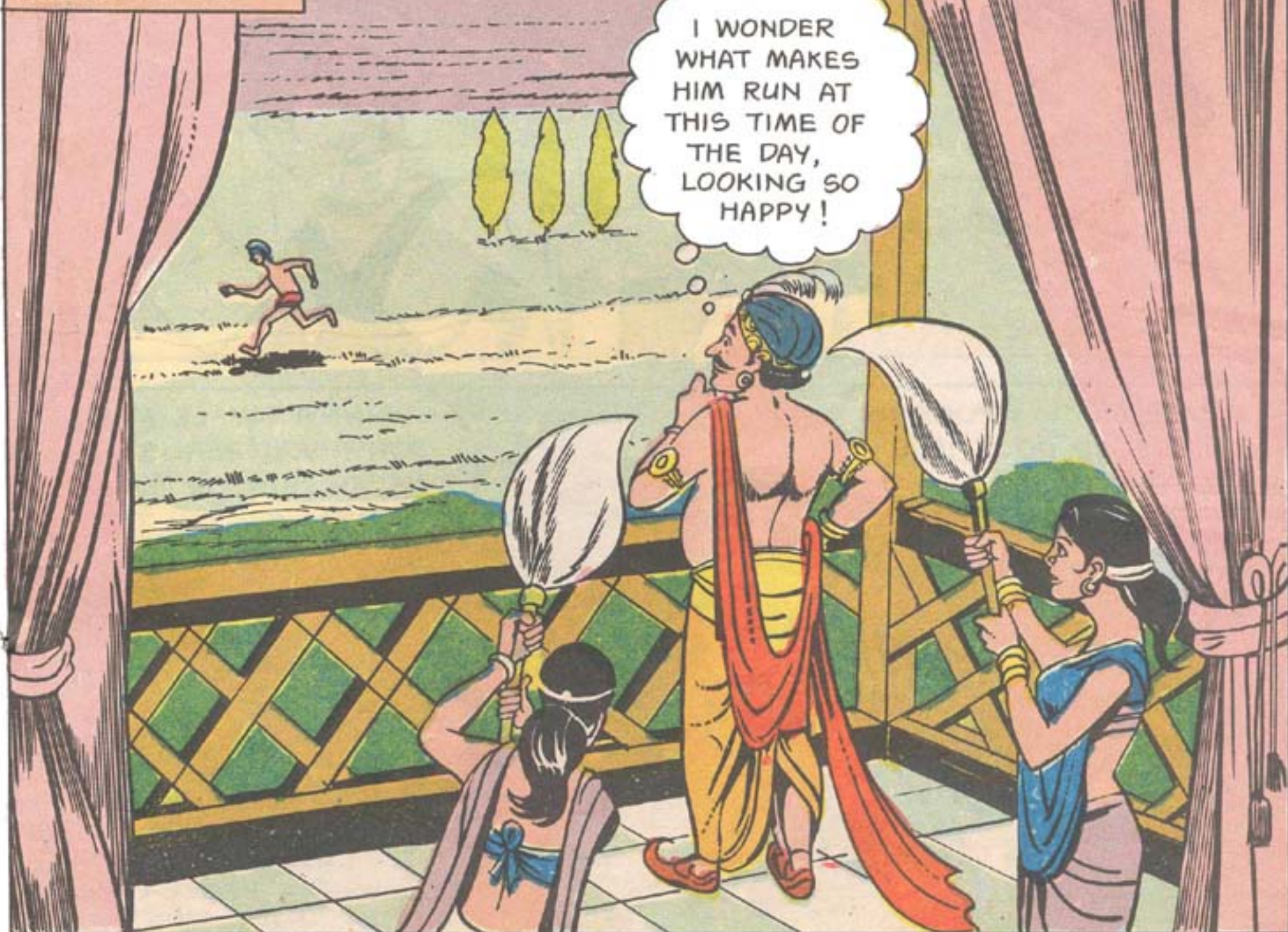
THE YEARS PASSED BY. HE MARRIED A GIRL WHO ALSO WORKED AS A WATER-CARRIER. THEY BUILT A HUT NEAR THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE CITY. ONE AFTERNOON —



IT WAS SUMMER. THE MIDDAY SUN WAS BLAZING IN THE SKY. NO ONE WAS TO BE SEEN ON THE STREETS EXCEPT THE WATER-CARRIER WHO WAS RUNNING WITH A SONG ON HIS LIPS.



KING UDAYA, WHO WAS RELAXING IN THE PALACE BALCONY, SAW THE WATER-CARRIER.



HE SENT WORD TO HAVE THE MAN BROUGHT TO HIM —



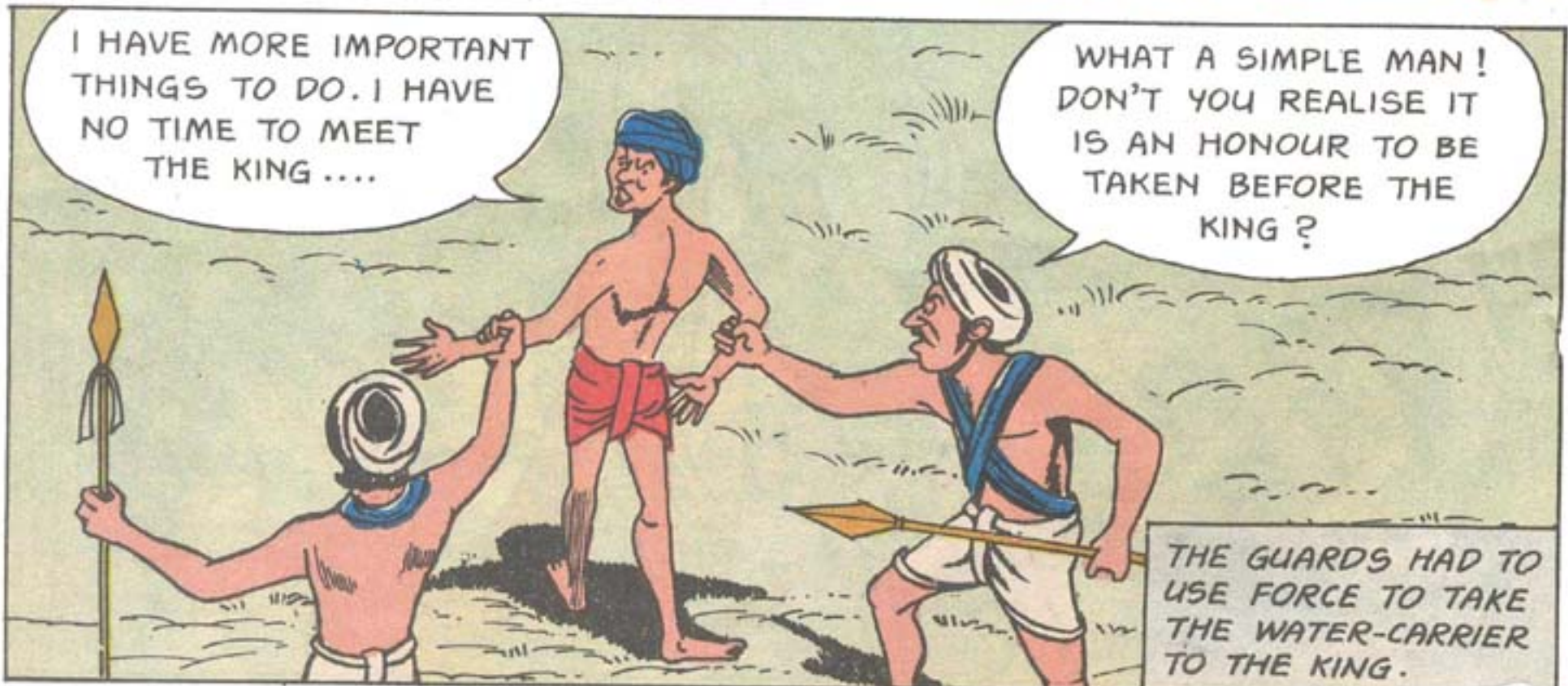
LET ME GO!

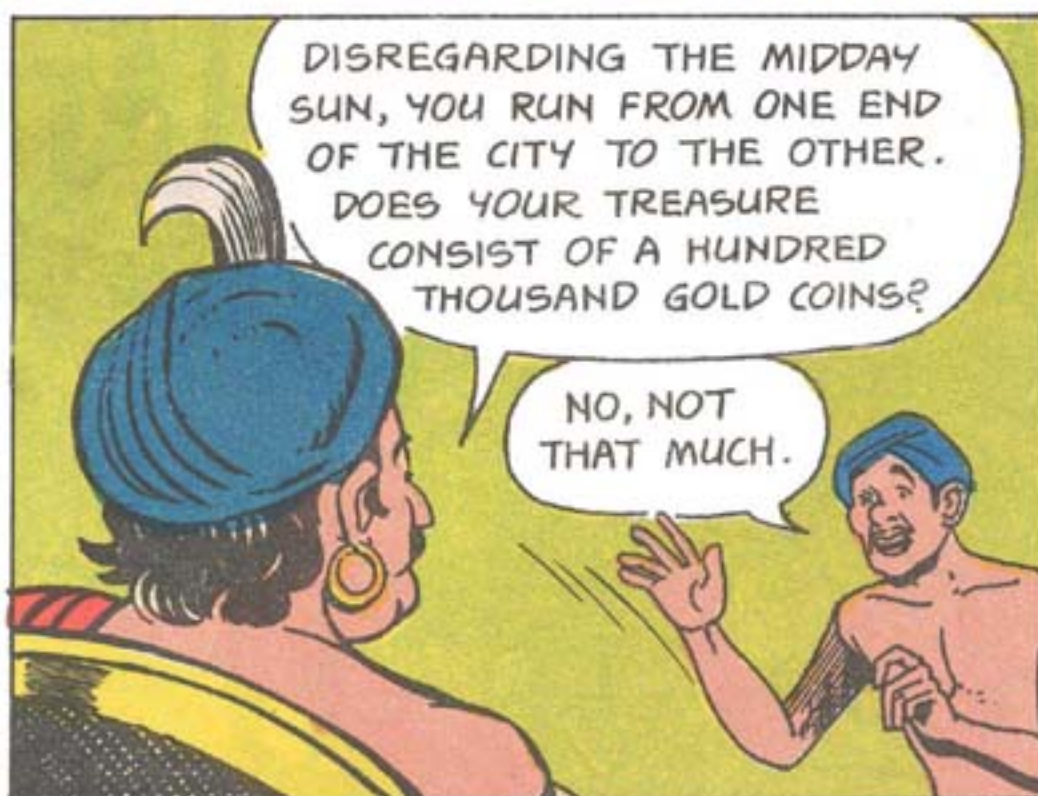
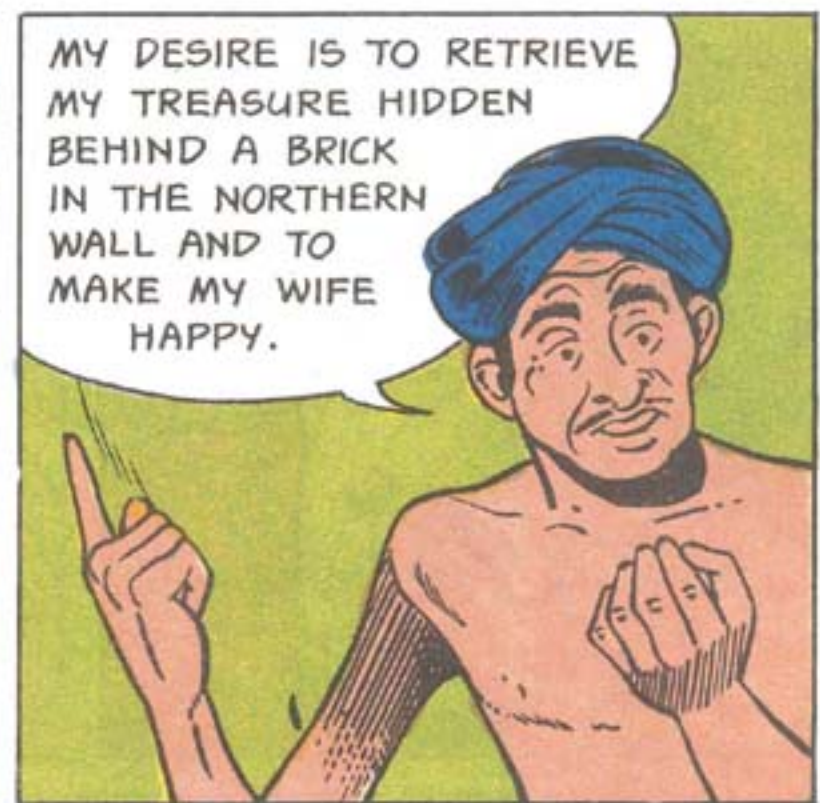
THE KING WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU. COME!



I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO. I HAVE NO TIME TO MEET THE KING

WHAT A SIMPLE MAN! DON'T YOU REALISE IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE KING?





THE KING ASKED IF IT WERE A THOUSAND, A HUNDRED, FIFTY, TEN GOLD COINS. BUT THE WATER-CARRIER SHOOK HIS HEAD —

NO, NO. NOT THAT MUCH!

THEN HOW MUCH IS IT?

IT IS ONE PAISA, MY KING.

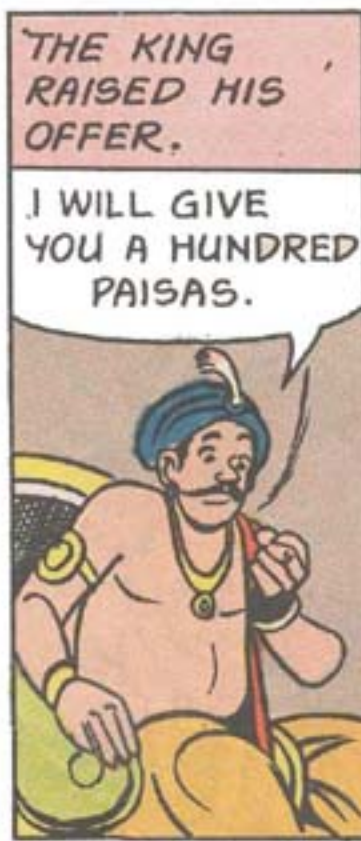
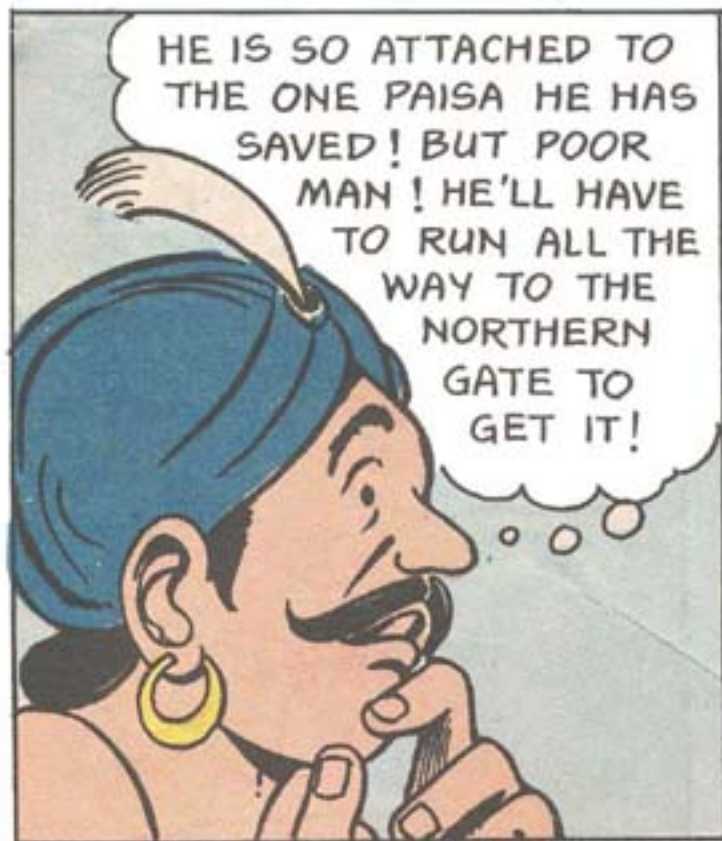
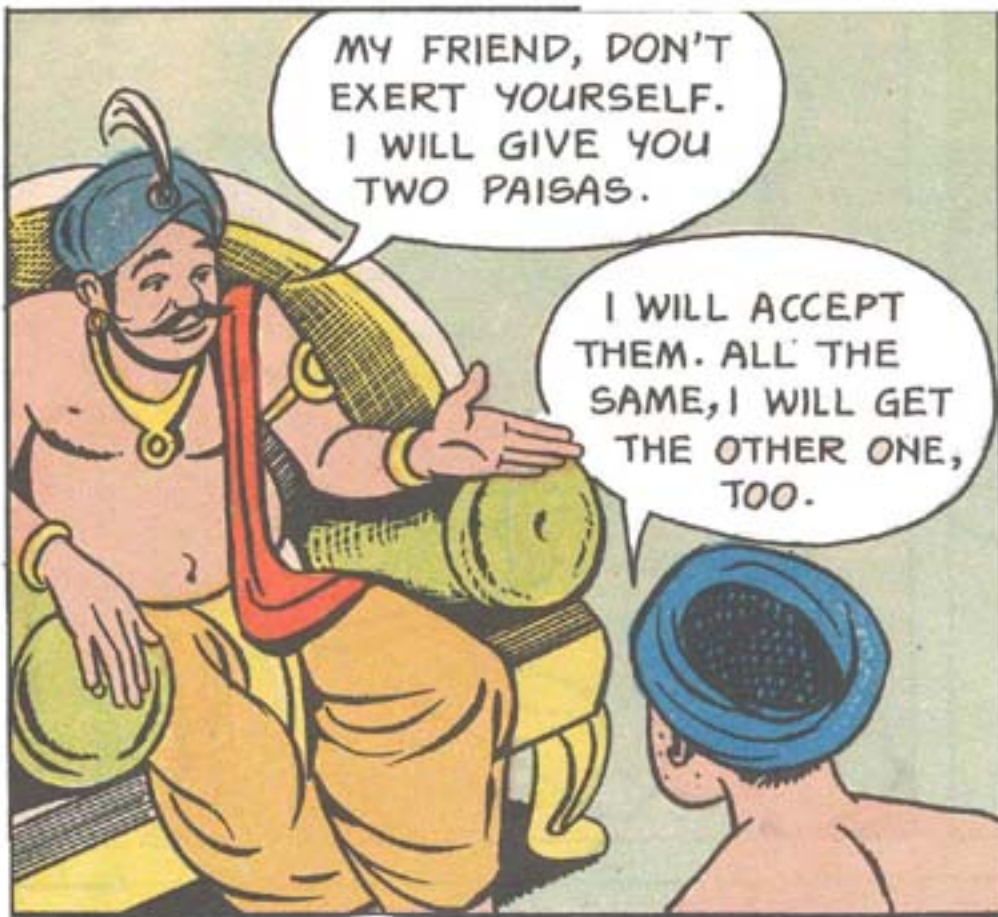
ONE PAISA!

YES, WITH THAT MONEY I CAN BUY A LOT OF THINGS FOR MY WIFE AND MAKE HER HAPPY.

MY FRIEND, YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN TO THE NORTHERN GATE TO GET ONE PAISA. I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU.

HERE, TAKE THIS AND GO HOME.

I WILL TAKE WHAT YOU GIVE ME. BUT I WILL GO AND GET THE OTHER COIN, TOO.



DESPERATELY, THE KING RAISED HIS OFFER AGAIN AND AGAIN. BUT THE WATER-CARRIER INSISTED THAT HE WOULD GO AND FETCH HIS HIDDEN TREASURE. FINALLY —

I WILL GIVE YOU HALF MY KINGDOM IF ONLY YOU WILL AGREE TO DROP THE IDEA OF RUNNING NOW FOR ONE PAISA!

I AGREE!

AT LAST! I AM HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR AGREEMENT!

THE KING HELD A DARBAR TO CROWN THE WATER-CARRIER KING OF ONE HALF OF THE KINGDOM.

NOW, FRIEND, TELL ME WHICH HALF OF THE KINGDOM YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE.

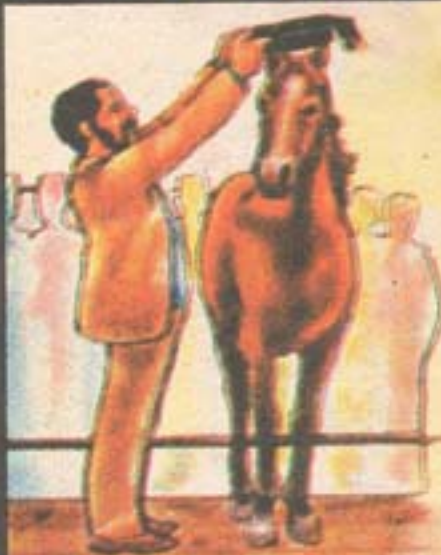
THE WATER-CARRIER THOUGHT FOR A SECOND —

I WANT THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE KINGDOM.

YOU'VE WON AGAIN!

THUS, THE WATER-CARRIER NOT ONLY GOT HALF THE KINGDOM BUT ALSO HIS TREASURE WHICH WAS HIDDEN IN THE NORTHERN WALL.

Jeevan and Hanu wonder at **HORSE SENSE**



would tap seven times. Non-mathematical questions (such as 'Is London the capital of Britain?') would be answered by shaking or nodding the head. Hans could even answer questions written out on blackboards.

'Clever Hans' was a horse who lived in Germany, early in the twentieth century. He could read, solve mathematical problems, and answer questions on world political affairs — or so it seemed.

Hans would answer all mathematical questions by tapping his leg. If you asked him '3 plus 4', he



Finally Hans' secret was discovered. He was highly sensitive to the reactions of people around him, especially his master Osten. When a



mathematical question was asked, people would look at Hans' foot. So Hans would start tapping. When he reached the right number of taps, people would react in some way, without being aware of it. They would nod slightly, or relax, or smile. Hans would then stop tapping.

Hans was able to pick up similar cues for non-mathematical questions. No one knows how he learnt this trick.

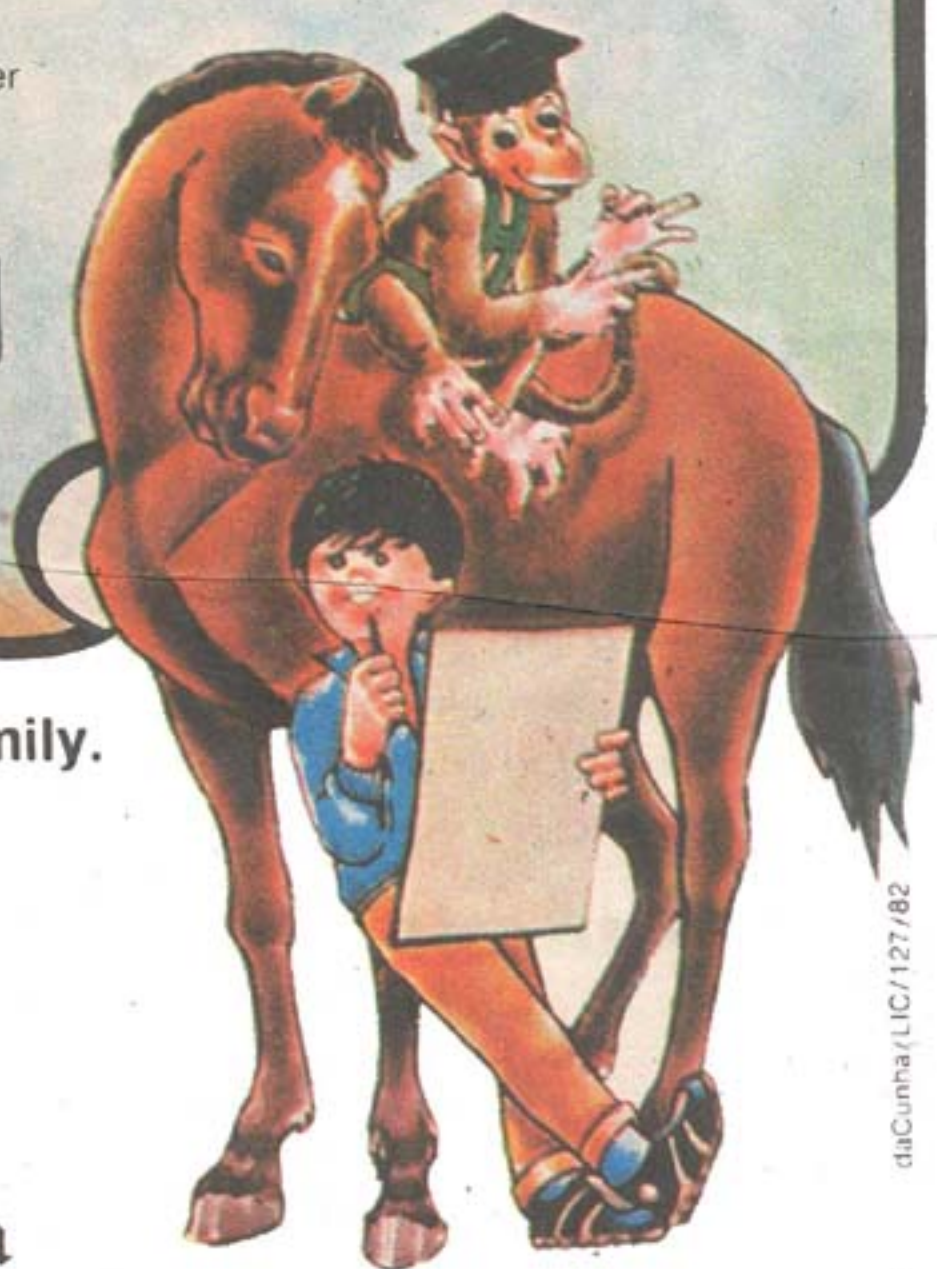
The most amazing thing is that even after people became aware of the horse's method, they could still not stop sending out these little clues, no matter how hard they tried!



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I have a little bear, his name is Teddy
I take him everywhere, cause he's so cuddly.
When Teddy is good, I give him a treat
And Teddy gives me Gems, isn't that sweet?

Got a moment? Get a Gem!



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**ADVENTURE!
THRILLS!
EXCITEMENT!**

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Owning a dog is a lot of fun. But when that dog is Ranjha, fur flies and criminals go in fear. Tinkle serialises the true-life adventures of the one and only Dog Detective Ranjha, a never before saga of a dog's heroism and intelligence.



TINKLE

THE CHILDREN'S MONTHLY FROM
THE HOUSE OF AMAR CHITRA KATHA



Green
Silver
Orange
Silver
Red
Silver
Yellow

No foolin'!

Real Poppins

now have a
silver striped wrappin'!

Guess what, kids! The tricksters
can't fool you now. All you do
is watch for the silver stripes
on the Parle POPPINS
colourful foil pack.
Then, keep poppin' them in
for fruity flavoured
fun, okay?

WATCH FOR
THE SILVER STRIPES
BEFORE YOU
POP'EM IN.

PARLE
POPPINS

Now,
the imitators can't
fool you.

